

Class Officers



BY SHU-YI ZHOU, I
PRESIDENT

As I am writing this, I feel that I am in a different place than my fellow officers, and that I've said all that I've wanted to say. So yes, I'll work hard for you, I love this class...fast forward... Congratulations, KC Mr. VP, Julie, and Mr. Trantastic! I have all the confidence in the world that we'll be the best public servants that this school has ever seen! I am so happy that I'm working with you all! Class of 2009, you will never regret voting for such wonderful, capable people.

That being said, I can't believe that we've made it past a hellish first term! There were lots of times within the past few months – no, the past few years, when I thought that I couldn't possibly survive until graduation. Just getting across that stage is a living testament that we're all survivors, but I doubt that wearing "I Survived BLS" shirts would sit too well with the Head Master. (Or would it?)

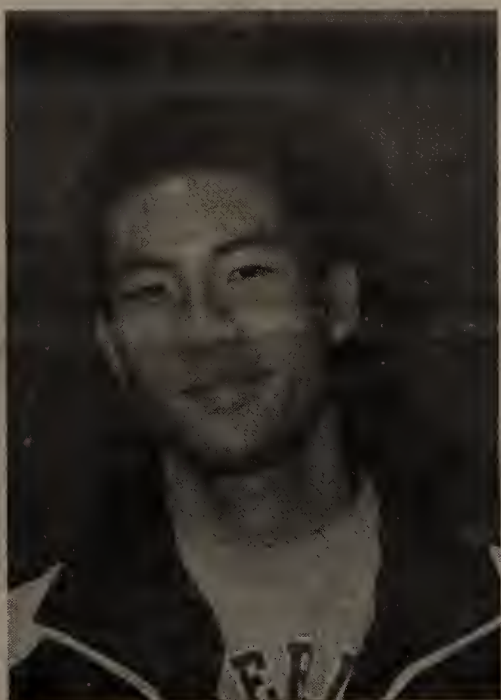
Whenever I get stressed out (and it happens a lot in this school) I find that I can handle it by focusing on what's directly in front of me. But being elected as class president has changed it all. I find myself constantly wearing invisible bifocals: at one moment, I'm wondering on why Martin Luther married his wife in Dr. Neary's Modern Euro class (Was it really for love? Really?), and at another, I'm looking ahead to our goals as a class for this month, for this year, and for the rest of our lives.

I used to think that the end of my campaign would mean that I could breathe again, but now I realize that it's actually the beginning of a lifetime of responsibilities. If there were a book called Being Class President for Dummies, I would really need a copy right now. But

seeing as it doesn't exist just yet, I think I may just write it at the end of the year and make myself a couple of bucks.

I know that I'll never quell those concerns about our graduation speech, so you guys will just have to trust me and wait. (That is not to say that I'm not expecting a flood of emails around May...I am!)

Lastly (but, of course, not leastly) I want to thank everyone who helped me with my life (yes, my life), including Ms. Nabbefeld, Ms. Powell, my best friend in the world Sydneybear, and of course, you, Class of '09! I value the support and friendship of every person in this grade because it has shaped me into the person I am today, and I am so grateful and excited for the opportunity to serve all of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and see you on that stage in June!



BY KEVIN CHIN, I
VICE PRESIDENT

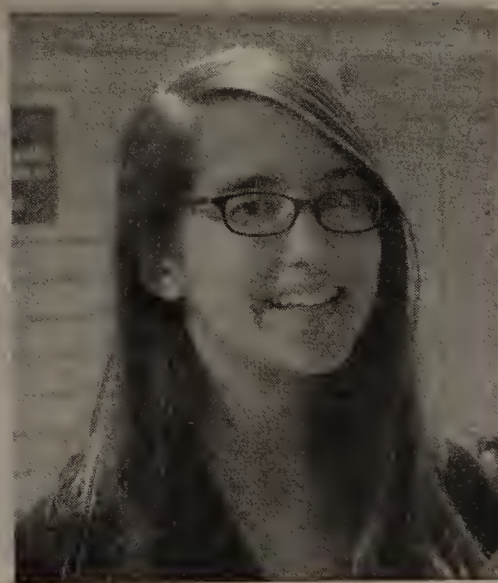
We finally made it everyone! Senior year is here, but is it everything we hoped for? Maybe not, but I hope we can make it that way. First, I just want to congratulate all of the candidates that ran for any of the four positions on a great race. I don't know about you guys, but I definitely enjoyed watching the speeches. Regardless of the outcomes, we are all still a part of the senior class, and it is going to take a united effort to shape this year into something great.

As I said in my speech, I am your representative. I am here to voice your opinions and ideas, so don't hesitate to come up to me if you want to talk. I promise I don't bite. I will be more than happy to listen to what you have to say and will try my very best to relay your suggestions to the rest of the senior officers and the administration. I look forward to working with everyone, not

just the elected officers, to make our senior year the greatest year ever. The workload ahead is already looking heavy, but I want the whole class to know that I meant what I said and I will dedicate myself one hundred percent to the job.

Some of the things we hope to bring to the year include more student sports events, unique fundraisers that will hopefully make the remainder of our senior year cheaper, and hopefully a senior prom that you will never forget. I hope these events will make our senior year not only much more enjoyable, but cheaper as well. From past experience, events such as the dodgeball tournament, have been both extremely exhilarating and very profitable.

Last, but definitely not least, I would just like to thank all of my supporters and my long list of campaign managers, without whom none of this is possible. Without my head campaign manager, Ibby Abdussabur, you would never have seen any of the slogans plastered all over the walls of the senior hallway. Remember, I cannot stress enough that in order to make our senior year the best year ever, it is going to take a joint effort. Thanks, and have a great rest of the year!



BY JULIE POKASKI, I
SECRETARY

First off, I would like to thank everyone who voted for me – you won't be disappointed in your choice! I would also like to thank all the candidates who ran against me – you guys really made it a great race. Actually, in history, we've been studying the first American government, and the head of each department was actually called the secretary. So, heads up Shu Yi... I'm taking over.

As you can see, I'm not very good at telling jokes (which is okay, because I don't have to make any speeches at graduation) but I am excellent at keeping things organized. As secretary, I promise to do my best to keep the senior class

organized and on top of things, and deliver information to everyone efficiently and quickly (November calendars will soon be appearing in homerooms!). I'm excited to serve the Class of '09 and you guys should know that you can definitely put your trust in your officers. Look forward to a great senior year with help from your senior class officers!



BY MOSES TRAN, I
TREASURER

First and foremost, I would like to thank Don, Stephanie and all of you guys and gals for the support and the chance that you've given me, and for that I am grateful. I promise that I will devote my time to serve your best interests financially as your class treasurer. I ran for this position because I know that I haven't done much during my time here, so this is my own personal obligation and contribution to you guys, and I promise that I will get it done.

As treasurer, my role is to manage the finances and to fundraise, so some ideas, which I hope to implement this year are the t-shirts of known staff in the school (aka megawatts) as well as the student-faculty games. I also hope to get input from you guys, so if you have any ideas, feel free to come see me and we can put it into motion. I want us to have a great senior year.

I also know that to some of you, I'm an international man of mystery as you've only seen me in videos and not in person, so if you want proof that I exist physically, drop by 201 in the morning.

And you know something? Not only will your money be safely transported, Class of '09, but it's going to be transferred, it's going to be transcended, it's going to be transplanted, it might be transformed, maybe even deformed, but it's going to be fantastic, possibly trantastic. And in the end, we can all celebrate at the cookout! Byah!

Global News Tidbits

>>>Most people know that GPS systems are not that reliable, but one man found out the hard way. After ignoring warning signs of a dead-end, he continued to drive down the road because his GPS navigation device told him too. Piotr Smolen, a Polish police, reported that there were three warning signs,

but since it was night time, the man didn't see the lake up ahead. It was not long before the Mercedes mini-van was underwater, with its passengers standing on the roof waiting for police to arrive. (AFP)
>>>Rapunzel is known for her notoriously long hair, but she is in for some competition. Asha Mandela, a 46-year-old woman from South Florida, began to grow her dreadlocks 20 years ago,

and now, her hair measures longer than her height and has been submitted into the Guinness Book of World Records for the Longest Locks, measuring 8 feet 9 inches. While this is quite an achievement, Mandela uses one full bottle of shampoo and conditer everytime she washes her hair, and waits days for it to dry. (AP)

>>>A naked man was arrested in London after allegedly stealing from a Tesco

Express Supermarket. Police received a report and at the arrival of the scene, found a naked, twenty-two year-old man trapped in the chimney after an attempted escape. In a statement clarifying the odd happening, the police said, "It is believed some of his clothes came off as a result of him struggling to get out of the chimney." He was taken to the hospital after being arrested and is now in police custody. (Reuters)



Editor's Note

First term is finally over, and to reward you guys for all your hard work, we're publishing our first issue of the 08-09 *Argo*! It's a little later than originally planned, but it's good enough to make up for all that extra waiting. We have a dedicated and experienced group of staff this year, who will be working hard to put together a great newspaper.

While preparing for our positions as Editors-in-Chief (we just like to say that phrase), we reread the *Argo*'s mission statement: The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community. We hope to fulfill this mission statement this year, and ensure that we do "inform and inspire" every member of the Boston Latin community.

We are asking everyone help us reach this goal, by responding to articles and new features with a letter to the editors, or submitting ideas for the next Versus question in the Forum section. And if you want to be even more involved, just come to one of our weekly meetings (Tuesdays in Room 114), and tell us what you'd like to write!

Obviously, the presidential election is next Tuesday, so to coincide, our Forum Versus question has a slightly different format than usual. Rather than a straight debate question, we have students advocating both McCain and Obama, sounding off on the candidates' levels of experience and performance in their campaigns. We also included articles examining the media's treatment of McCain and his choice for VP, Sarah Palin. While these articles may not change your opinions on the presidential candidates, we hope that they will inspire discussion among students and encourage everyone who has registered, to vote on Election Day, especially since it is one of the most important elections the country has ever had. On a more local level, the recently elected senior class officers, each introduces themselves and their goals to the Class of '09 and the greater

BLS community on the front page.

For those of you who would rather spend your time watching movies than discussing politics, there are reviews of four highly anticipated movies - The Duchess, with the lovely Keira Knightley, Eagle Eye, with the lovely Shia LaBeouf, and Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, with the lovely Andrew Klein... I mean, Michael Cera.

Meet the new faculty, reminisce about sixie year, read up on the BLS soccer teams' seasons, mourn the Red Sox, and look forward to the Bruins. We have a calendar of upcoming events both in and outside of school, and STAND's president informs us of the situation in Darfur, and what students can do to help.

As always, we have senior spotlights, but this year, we're also including spotlights for students who are active in both the school and community, and deserve just as much recognition as our star athletes and artists. So, before next issue, you're welcome to nominate a student. Meanwhile, Happy Halloween and expect more *Argo* treats to come!

—Queen Arsem-O'Malley, I
& Chenglin Yuan, I

STANDing Room Only

BY ALENA WOLFLINK, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What is Darfur? It is a region on the southwestern border of Sudan where non-Arab tribes are being systematically slaughtered by their government. It is people being burned out of their villages, poisoned, murdered, raped, and displaced by the Janjaweed, a nomadic militia paid by the government of Sudan to murder its own people. It is a modern-day Holocaust with attacks on villages instead of concentration camps. It is the world being silent even after genocide has been declared.

Although the President of Sudan, Omar Al-Bashir, may soon be charged by the International Criminal Court for perpetrating genocide, the death toll in Darfur continues to grow. Refugee camps and humanitarian organizations in Sudan, and even on the eastern border of Chad, are being attacked. Non-governmental organizations and student groups across the country and around the world have been working to help the people of

Darfur, but so far, the United Nations and the United States government have done nothing but talk.



MALNUTRITION INCREASES DESPITE FURTHER AID

Darfur is not a partisan issue. It seems that if there is one thing that

the entire country can agree upon, it is that genocide is immoral and horrific. Many activists for Darfur are currently focusing on getting the presidential candidates to talk about their plans to end the genocide. Whether you are a McCain or an Obama supporter, you will be happy to know that both candidates are emphatic that they want the genocide to end. If you heard them answer the question about Darfur during the October 7th debate, you know that it took a lot of work by many people to even get that question in the forum. In various interviews, Obama has suggested implementing concrete methods such as establishing a "no-fly zone" to save Darfur. McCain, too, has been very adamant about acting on the statement "Never Again." Darfur does not require military intervention. It simply requires political and economic pressure on the Sudanese government. As the elections are drawing near, it is critical to establish that the people are voting for Darfur (among other things) to the presidential candidates. There is also time to pressure Bush to spend his last few months in office trying to save some

STAND

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Boston Latin School
Argo

ARGO
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR
BOSTON, MA 02115

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Petere Veritatem

The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

1994 First Place
New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Competition

1996 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior
Achievement Award

1996 Third Place
Suffolk University
High School
Journalism
Competition

1998 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior
Achievement Award

1997 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Superior Achievement
Award

2004 New England
Scholastic Press
Association
Highest Achievement
Award

2007 First Place
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in Sports Writing

New 2007 Honorable Mention
Greater Boston High School
Newspaper Competition
Excellence in News Writing

Boston Latin School *Argo*
2008-2009 Academic Year

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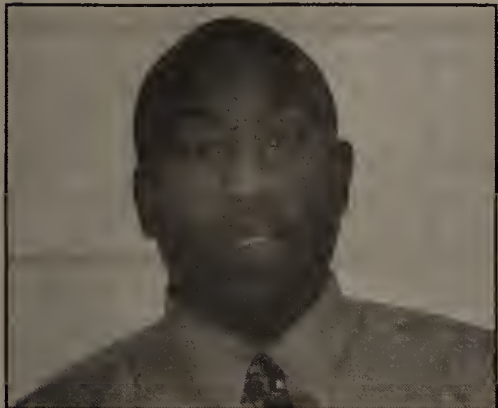
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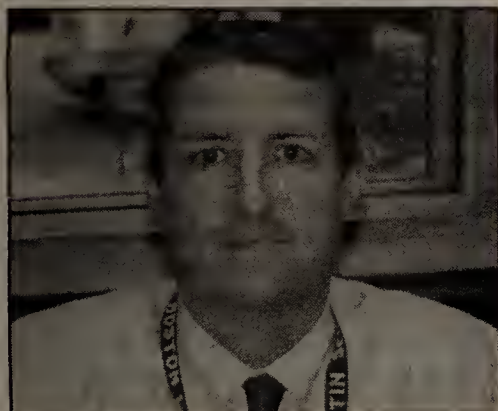
New Teachers at Boston Latin School

BY TIAN TIAN SHI, II
& VANYA ZVONAR, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Once again, another new and exciting school year has begun at Boston Latin School, ushering in an array of diverse, talented, and passionate individuals. The energy and knowledge they bring guarantees a fun and interesting year for our eager students.



Mr. Jerry Etienne, also known by his middle name of "Juju" after the Juju Fruits (candy) he always used to eat, is another guidance counselor who grew up in the Boston area. Mr. Etienne was not always a guidance counselor, having first started his career here as the Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball head coach two years ago. He interned at Boston Latin during graduate school and always knew that he wanted to work as a teacher or a counselor. He says that he "had such a great experience with a former guidance counselor [during his internship]" that it helped him decide on a career in guidance.

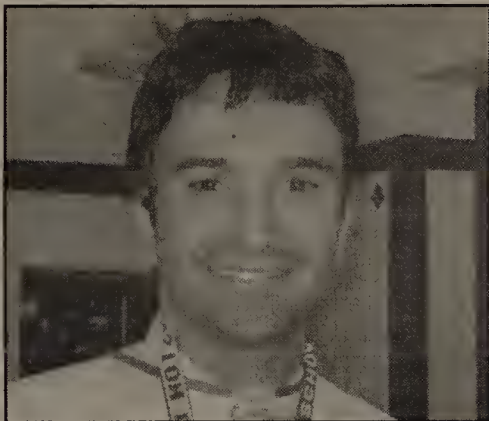


Mr. Bill Murray, a new guidance counselor, is a Boston Latin School Alum from Class of 1986. Growing up in Hyde Park, he went to Boston College, and then earned his Master's degree at the University of Massachusetts. Mr. Murray has always "liked to help people" and worked for nine years as a guidance counselor at Newton South High School before coming here. Called back to his alma mater by his desire to "get back in touch with his roots," Mr. Murray enthusiastically took the job. To this day, the very first approbation card he received here is proudly displayed in his office.

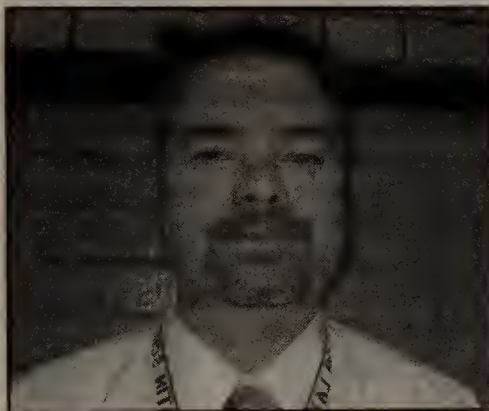


Ms. Erica Wenz is from Long Island, New York. She attended Emmanuel College and was a student teacher for Mrs. Craven before becoming a full-time English teacher. She says that while growing up, "I really liked English" and enjoyed "picking apart literature" to see how everything came together. Ms. Wenz excels not only at English, but also at basketball. Last December, she went to China to play with her college team.

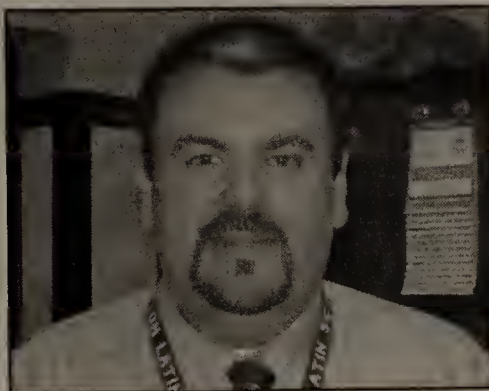
Rebecca Snyder, an Ultimate Frisbee playing English teacher, moved to Boston from Virginia when her husband was transferred for work. With a Bachelor's degree in English literature and a Master's in teaching from the University of Pittsburgh, she now teaches ninth and tenth grade English at Boston Latin School. As is the case with many people who end up at Boston Latin, she says that the reputation of the school was what attracted her.



Mr. Christopher Doss, a physics teacher who many claim will be the next Mr. Balicki, was born in New Jersey and attended Brown University in Rhode Island. Mr. Doss taught at a small private school in New Jersey for a short time before he came here. While looking for jobs in Massachusetts and New York, he came across a position at Boston Latin School. He says that he was "very impressed by the teachers and students" and easily made the decision to come and teach here. An interesting fact for all of his fans: Mr. Doss is 100 percent Egyptian!



Mr. James Heffron says he decided to teach at Boston Latin because he was looking for a different, more challenging environment. He formerly taught history at Josiah Quincy Upper School. Originally from New Jersey, he attended Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, then Northeastern University as a graduate student, where he received a Master's in History. When he moved to Boston in 1994, his first job was giving tours while driving trolleys. He now teaches U.S. History.



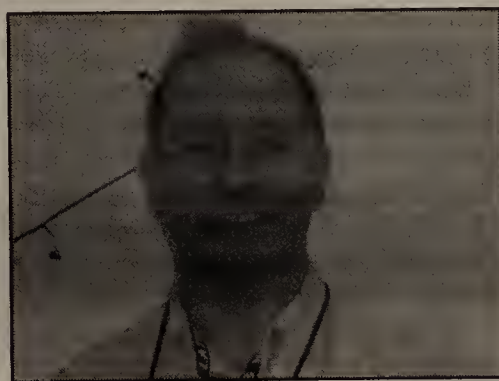
Joseph Rodriguez taught math at Boston Latin Academy for eight years, followed by two years of being head of the math department. When he saw an opening at Boston Latin, he decided to come here. He says that he "missed teaching," and that he was drawn to Boston Latin by its reputation. With a college background in math and education from Boston University (where he was also a cook) and Harvard University, he now teaches ninth and eleventh grade math.



Ms. Meg Folcarelli says she always loved singing, especially opera, which led her to the Italian language. She continued to study Italian while attending Bryn Mawr College, where she also became interested in French. After graduating from college, she moved to Milton, Massachusetts and taught French for a year, but then decided to move back to Boston, her hometown. She says that she wanted to teach Italian, but it was hard to find teaching positions for that particular language. Ms. Folcarelli now teaches eighth, ninth, and tenth grade Italian.



Ms. Danielle Huebner always wanted to be a singer, having a voice with perfect pitch. However, stage fright led her down another path. Originally from San Diego, California, she attended a state college in her hometown, where she majored in English Literature and got her Master's in Linguistics. After that, she proceeded to teach all over the continent at schools in San Diego, New York City, Toronto and Newton. She says that she prefers the east coast because it is "more honest." After the school she taught at in Newton received budget cuts, she realized that the job was unstable, so she applied for a position at Boston Latin. Even though the school in Newton called her back, she turned it down and decided to teach here instead. She says it was all "timing and luck," and now happily teaches seventh grade Latin.



You may have been surprised at seeing Mr. William Baer, a geometry and statistics teacher, walking down the hall with his seeing-eye dog. Mr. Baer is legally blind, although at one time he could see much better, a fact that often frustrates him. Mr. Baer was born in Denver, Colorado, and earned his two Masters' degrees at Boston College. He says that he wanted to teach at Boston Latin because of its great reputation, and because he thinks it is a place where he can find the "personal growth" that he has been looking for. However, he confesses that teaching can be difficult at times due to his visual impairment and an unfamiliar setting, but he loves it and "can't think of anything else [he'd] rather do".



Suzanne Hogarty, better known as Signora Hogarty or Madame Hogarty, came to the "obviously well renowned" Boston Latin School because she wanted to teach high school students. Previously, she taught bilingual math in Spanish to middle school students in Belmont, Middleton, and Boston Public Schools. She received her college education at UMass, where she majored in Spanish and English. This motivated teacher, who kick-boxes during her free time, now teaches Spanish and French.



Nancy Yang, originally from Beijing, moved to the United States in 1988. Prior to moving, she attended college in Beijing, studying English Comprehension and Hotel Management. After teaching college students for five years in Beijing, she attended graduate school in Rhode Island. In the summer of 1990, she came to Boston, where she taught Chinese at the Josiah Quincy Upper School for eight years. She finally came to Boston Latin when she noticed that her best students were coming here, and she heard that the students at Latin were more cooperative than those at other schools. She now teaches Chinese for ninth, eleventh, and twelfth grades.



A self proclaimed sushi addict, Ms. Nina Nguyen knew since high school that she wanted to be involved with the Boston Public School system. Even though she was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Ms. Nguyen, a graduate from Boston College, admits that Boston is like her "second hometown." She is Mr. Baer's para-assistant and helps him around the classroom with anything that requires acute vision, such as class management, attendance, and running errands. Ms. Nguyen previously worked at an elementary school in Chelsea with a visually impaired student.

NEWS

STAND

Continued from page 2

lives out there.

To find out what can be done, stop by a Students Taking Action Now Darfur meeting. STAND is an international organization that is particularly

strong in the United States and can be found in every college in the country, as well as many high schools. Two Boston Latin students will be traveling to Washington, D.C. as representatives for the National Conference in a few weeks. BLS STAND has been raising money for the

GI-Net (Genocide Intervention Network), an organization that raises awareness and protects civilians. Last year, we raised thousands of dollars - more than most of the chapters in Massachusetts, and this year we are aiming to break our record. We have many fresh faces

this year, and even more plans than last year. So buy one of the new and improved shirts, drop by a meeting in 307 on Tuesdays, or stop by a Lemonade STAND. Remember that this election can save thousands of lives, and that genocide cannot continue—at least, not on our watch.

U.S. Economy Spirals into Oblivion

BY RACHEL MCKAY, II
STAFF WRITER

The complexity of the financial issues in the United States is partially the reason why the average American does not understand what is going on. Lately, problems have arisen from the center of the U.S. economy: Wall Street. Ambitious risk-taking has resulted in bankruptcy for New York City giant Lehman Brothers and serious economic hardships for several other investment firms. The issues plaguing us today started out as something small about sixteen months ago. Due to the low prices of homes in the past year, big companies freely gave out loans to home buyers - buyers who could not pay them back. As these homes lost value, companies tacked on higher interest rates to cover those homeowners who were walking away from their investments. The results of these bad loans were that more owners could not pay off their homes and mortgage companies accumulated debt. Thus, mortgage companies lost money by overestimating home owners' ability to repay them, resulting in bankruptcy.

The bankruptcy of once-reliable companies is not the only thing worrying people. In September, the government had to bail out mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac because they ran out of money to cover their losses. The bank, Washington Mutual Inc. (WaMu), also collapsed in late September, and was

bought by JPMorgan Chase & Co. It earned the title of "largest bank to declare bankruptcy in U.S. history."

In recent weeks, the New York stock market has stayed in the red for most days and rebounded unexpectedly

buyer a little too much. One factor that led up to the economic crisis was unregulated contracts called credit default swaps which banks willingly lent to home buyers in need of loans. The buyers were told that if the bank failed, the individual

brought both the housing market and the nation's economy to the breaking point.

"I think it's Wall Street's fault," says Maria Spellman (I), "Now they're trying to bail themselves out. It's going to take a while for things to get better. We need to fix the immediate problems and make sure this doesn't happen again." When asked if the economic crisis was affecting her everyday life, she says, "No. Other than talking about it in Humanities class I probably wouldn't know what was going on."

The financial crisis isn't affecting her college plans either: "I already have my college choices picked so financially it's not affecting me too much. I know financial aid is out there. But it's something to think about."

So are the problems on Wall Street only affecting Wall Street? Yes, for the most part, but the crisis could eventually hinder students' college choices and the availability of student loans.

"A majority of our generation doesn't care. I don't know. If we cared, we would change things now. Maybe we could change it in the future," says Roselle Mangilog (II), "These kinds of issues should be dealt with during the elections."

A new president could potentially help our economic woes. With the new bailout plan, perhaps companies will be able to make a comeback and invest their money better in the future.



FRANTIC BUSINESSMEN GATHER AT WALL STREET

on others, leaving the economy dangerously unstable.

The problems boil down to the concept that companies overestimated and erred in trusting the American home

would be paid. It just so happened some did fail because of the shaky housing market, and the credit default swaps caused those banks, such as Lehman Brothers, to go bankrupt. These risky "swaps" have

The Gas Price Roller Coaster

BY NICK SERGEANT, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As you may or may not have noticed, America's economy is in need of major therapy. To put it lightly, the stock market has had some rainy days over the past few weeks. Americans, accustomed to being the wealthiest people in the world, have been rudely awakened now that they are no longer in such a position. Even Bill Gates has been affected by this crisis—his buddy, Warren Buffet, now holds the title as the richest man in the world. Because of the recent economic disaster, people are starting to guard their investments more cautiously as they worry about everyday commodities for the first time. During this critical time, luxuries must be sacrificed, but gasoline, which is regarded as a necessity, is where Americans draw the financial line.

Think back for a moment to the summer, a season of family vacations. Many of these families pack up their gas-guzzling SUVs and minivans to go on trips, creating a budget devoted purely to gas stations. The cheap way to vacation, driving to the destination, isn't that cheap anymore. Oil is no longer an abundant natural resource that can be found in America. For this reason, we must have our gas imported from around the globe. In fact, it costs millions of dollars to ship this "necessity" to America from regions such as the Middle East. Since it costs quite a lot of money to buy the product, naturally the cost of the product itself will rise. As a result, gas prices began to rise,

from a national average of \$3.06 a gallon in December of 2007, to an all time high of \$4.11 in July of 2008.

It seems as though the stock market and gas prices rise and fall in unison.

summer.

One of the main reasons for this change is the economic concept of supply and demand, a fundamental part for business. Basically, when there is a

American dollar and hurricanes such as Katrina, Ike and Gustav that have devastated U.S. refineries along the Gulf Coast. The spike in the cost of crude oil, with the absence of the refineries, increased the prices for the people on road trips, or those who just drive to work everyday. However, the stock market is in the gutter and people are being much more cautious with their money. This has led to a drop in the demand for oil. Accordingly, the price of gas has plummeted to \$2.78 a gallon, the national average.

What's going to happen next on this unpredictable ride, that seems to have no promising conclusion? Well, it really depends on how we start to approach the problem of finding a renewable energy source. Will we continue on this ride until all the gas in the world is depleted? We can't just rely on the state of the economy to foretell the future of our gas budgets. There are solutions to this rickety coaster that

involve a lot of change. Perhaps, if these problems were approached in a new manner, then we could rely on a more stable source for energy. Maybe, a new approach will rub off on the economy as well before it is too late, as it is expected that oil reserves will be empty in 40 to 60 years. This foreshadowing storm cloud of an imminent problem tells us that we should get off this rollercoaster of a ride before we freefall to our economic deaths.



LAST FRIDAY, GAS PRICES REACHED THIS YEAR'S ALL TIME LOW

Coincidence? I think not! When the stock market is doing poorly and people are losing money all across the board, the only positive light is the falling price of gas. Conversely, when the nation's stock market is doing well and the American people are generally happy, the gas prices begin to rise. Right now, gas prices have dropped significantly—as much as 80 cents cheaper than in the summer—and the Dow Jones Industrial Average is down 19 percent since the

high demand for a certain product, but a shortage in the amount of product available, the suppliers drive the price up. People tolerate these price increases because where would we be without gasoline?

In July, when gas prices soared and oil topped \$147 a barrel, there was a large demand for gas, caused by Americans hitting the road for vacations. Other reasons that contributed to higher gas prices include: a weak

NEWS

Latin in Japan

COURTENEY SMITH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A familiar face is back in the halls of Boston Latin School after taking last year off for teacher development. Ms. Nabbefeld, former Latin teacher for Cluster B and current eighth and tenth grade Latin teacher, took a year off from BLS to teach in Japan. A language aficionado, she has studied over seven languages, and during the past year, she stayed in Japan with Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET), a government-funded program for teachers who want to experience education in a different environment, to learn Japanese, and to teach English in Japanese schools.

Ms. Nabbefeld worked in two types of schools: a junior high – roughly equivalent to seventh through ninth grade – and an elementary school – first grade to sixth grade. Some aspects of Japanese schools are similar to ours. They have forty-five minute class periods and many of their students participate in clubs. Most students participate in a single club that meets every day after school, unlike our students, who sometimes participate in seven or eight clubs. Even when actual classes are out in March and August for vacation, students are expected to go to school for these clubs because it develops a sense of discipline that is important to their culture. Japanese students also make it a priority to clean up after themselves by breaking up into groups and make sure that their assigned areas are clean every day.

Homerooms are also very significant in Japanese schools. Instead of traveling from class to class like we do here, students stay in their homerooms all day while the teachers travel. The homeroom teacher knows each student

out.

Just as it is mandatory for us to learn a modern foreign language, Japanese students are required to take English as a foreign language. However, it is taught more like Latin – with an intense

focus on grammar and vocabulary rather than speaking ability. Students can usually translate and know the words for mayonnaise and fish sticks, but cannot hold a conversation because they lack pronunciation skills. Japanese students start to learn English in elementary school. When she was in Japan, Ms. Nabbefeld taught her class games, songs, and vocabulary. She describes the English classes as having very little stress, but all that changes once the students hit junior high. Ms. Nabbefeld states, “9th graders are under an insane amount of pressure” since they have to attend regular school until 5:30 P.M. and then attend “cram school” in order to study for the high school entrance exam.

When people ask Ms. Nabbefeld how good her students’ English was, she replies, “How good’s your Latin?” English is to Japanese students what Latin is to us, and even though I took Honors Latin in tenth grade, I would be lucky to remember beyond *amo, amas, amat*. Her Japanese students look at English the same way. If they were considering an ambitious career, such as international law or business, then they would focus on studying English. Those who are less ambitious look at vocational high schools and do not concentrate on English, because it would not be necessary in their lives.

Furthermore, students must take entrance exams like we do to get into high school, but they take tests for high schools across the country. It is not unusual for a student to live alone in a neighboring city, and only come home on the weekends. I do not know about you, but I cannot function without my mother’s homemade banana bread. Who knows what I would do if I had to live by myself?

“It was like everything was turned 78 degrees,” Mrs. Nabbefeld said of her



MS. NABBEFELD WITH HER STUDENTS

far more personally than homeroom teachers here. According to Ms. Nabbefeld, were you to get arrested in Japan, the police would call your homeroom teacher before they would call your parents. Students also end the day with homeroom, so that any last minute announcements or papers can be handed

focus on grammar and vocabulary rather than speaking ability. Students can usually translate and know the words for mayonnaise and fish sticks, but cannot hold a conversation because they lack pronunciation skills. Japanese students start to learn English in elementary school. When she was in Japan, Ms. Nab-

The Straight-Talk Express

BY SHE'DAVIA WILLIAMS, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

In a state that consists of mainly liberals, there is one place where conservative right-wingers can find refuge. This safe haven lies, almost hidden, between a McDonalds and a convenience store, at 145 Tremont Street. Here, John McCain's Boston Victory Headquarters opened on August 27th, 2008. Massachusetts' Republicans can now access a call center for John McCain and Sarah Palin and they are also presented with the opportunity to socialize with other volunteers. It is one of five offices in Massachusetts (the others are in Plymouth, Springfield, Worcester, and Beverly) and it is one of ten satellite call centers in the state. James Greene is the Boston Field Director of this organization and can be reached at the headquarters every day. His main job is to develop and implement strategies that will help Senator McCain secure a victory in New Hampshire.

On any given day, one can find 30 to 40 people, ages ranging from 11-80, actively volunteering. The majority of volunteers call registered voters with a simple script that consists of four questions:

"Who are you voting for president?"

"Are you voting for John McCain and will it be early by absentee ballot?"

"Who are you voting for senator?"

"Who are you voting for Congress?"

If they do not get an answer they

leave a simple message:

"Hi my name is _____ and I'm a volunteer calling on behalf of New Hampshire Victory. The November election is right around the corner and John McCain, John Sununu, and [insert congressman/woman] need your help and commitment to win New Hampshire back this fall. To learn more about the candidates and how you can help, please call us at [insert town office number]. Thank you. This call has

gaining battleground states. Many even extend the phone calls by discussing why they feel McCain is the best presidential candidate and often engage in conversations with both McCain and Obama supporters in New Hampshire.

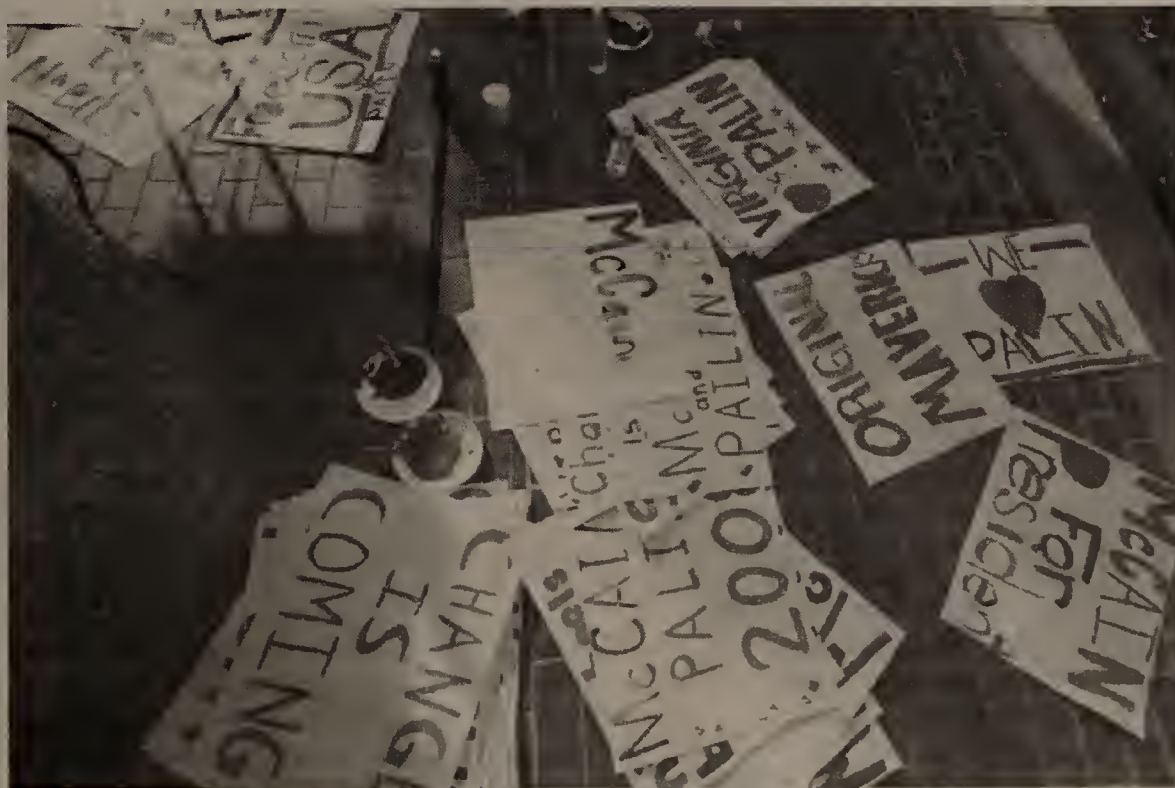
As is expected in a Democratic city, many Obama supporters protest outside of the headquarters and at times come in and shout opposing statements such as "Obama '08". When asked how he felt

is now situated in the Headquarters at all times to make sure that none of the protesters become "hostile."

Over the past two months, many events have taken place at the headquarters. On September 20th, they held their first Super Saturday. Their goal was to make 10,000 phone calls that day and they exceeded it by 2,000 calls. Some notable appearances at rallies have been former Governor Paul Cellucci, former Lt. Governor Kerry Healey, and John McCain's daughter, Meghan McCain.

One person that you will almost always find at Headquarters is full time volunteer Ricardo Dasilva. Dasilva not only surveys potential voters, but he also helps inform supporters of ways that they can volunteer for the campaign. Dasilva shows the confidence that not many Republicans possess as Senator McCain begins to drop in the polls. He said, "I think the opening of this office in Boston shows the outpour of support that Senator McCain has in Boston and is going to play a pivotal role in his November victory."

In closing, James Greene would like to leave people with this message: "The best part about this office is many people always think that Massachusetts is a Democratic state. However, if anyone came in on a given weeknight [they'd] see 30+ people making phone call on behalf of the Senator and Governor and if anything, it revitalizes that idea of a two party system in Massachusetts which is predominantly considered a one party state. What we're building here is the foundation [...] for the resurgence of the Republican Party once



POSTERS MADE TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE

been paid for by the Republican Party, authorized by McCain for President, Team Sununu, and the [insert congress man/woman] for Congress Committee."

Many John McCain supporters feel that making these phone calls is vital to

about these people, James Greene stated that, "I'm glad everyone can voice their opinion [...] some people don't have the same views, but hey, no need to get hostile [...] it makes them feel good. I guess they'll be happy." As Election Day nears, security

FORUM

Failin' Palin

By REED McCONNELL, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This past year, Hillary Clinton made history with her bid for the presidency. As the first woman to ever campaign for the President of the United States, she has stretched gender boundaries and made a sizeable crack in the so-called "glass-ceiling" that has prevented women from reaching the presidency for so long. Clinton may not have been declared the Democratic Party nominee, but she has made it closer to the White House than any woman ever has. Then along came Sarah Palin.

About a month after Clinton announced that she was ending her campaign, Senator John McCain picked Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska, as his running mate. He did so with the obvious assumption that she would attract Clinton supporters, many who were still undecided about their vote. But this was frankly an insult to Clinton supporters and the American women in general. McCain was convinced that Clinton supporters would vote for Palin solely based on the fact that she was a woman, though Palin and Clinton have opposing political outlooks. Palin's only common trait with Clinton are ovaries, and Palin does not even seem to be proud of hers. All of her positions are against women's rights. She does not support abortion. She does not support sexual education. I mean, for God's sake (for her, it actually is about God), the woman does not even support the morning-after pill. Yet, when asked by Katie Couric if she considers herself a feminist, she answered with a baffling

"yes", saying that she is "a feminist who believes in equal rights, and...[she's] been expected to do everything growing up that the boys were doing." But what she might not realize is that feminism and women's rights do not just apply to the fight for equal rights with respect to gender--though these are very important and are still being fought for. Women's rights go far beyond that. Women are not men. Women have problems men do not have. Men can't get pregnant, but women can if they don't know about safe sex. Palin doesn't support explicit sex-ed programs. She was actively against these programs as Governor of Alaska, and instead supported abstinence-based programs that only preached no sex until



A DISHEVELED PALIN

marriage. To get an idea of how effective these abstinence-based programs are, we can take a look at Palin's 16-year-old pregnant daughter, Bristol. There's been a lot of criticism directed towards Bristol over the past couple of months, but I don't blame her for getting pregnant. With Sarah Palin as her mother, I assume that ignorance was the norm in her house--and ignorance breeds ignorance.

Palin is also strongly against abortion. If a woman's life is in danger because of pregnancy, Palin does not believe that the woman should be allowed to have an abortion. If a fifteen-year-old is raped by her father, Palin does not believe that the girl should be allowed to get an abortion. Palin doesn't seem to have

a lot of respect for rape victims in general. When she was mayor of Wasilla, the town began making women pay for their own rape kits and forensic exams. This means that if a woman of Wasilla and was raped, she would have to shell out a couple hundred dollars to prove it. This resulted in discouraging women from reporting rape (what if they didn't have the money to pay for the rape kit?), therefore protecting the rapists. This ruling was instituted to annually save \$5,000-14,000 in taxes--how can someone justify humiliating rape victims in order to save a couple thousand dollars? It is incredibly disrespect toward women on Sarah Palin's part.

Sarah Palin's level of self-respect is frankly embarrassing. The cutesy manner she uses in debates and interviews, all of her winks and "doggone-its!" appear to be indications that she does not take herself seriously. If she has to resort to being adorable to get votes, she obviously does not believe that her ideals and policies are good enough to carry her on their own. She is also completely inarticulate. She can't seem to say a sentence without twisting her meaning into an unintelligible mess. She can't answer questions directly--when asked something, she either talks about something completely unrelated or regurgitates one of the few phrases that the McCain campaign obviously had her memorize with desperation to save face once they realized that they had picked an incompetent vice-presidential candidate. Sarah Palin has no respect for herself, and guess what? I have no respect for her either.

"Vote for _____!" It Doesn't Matter.

By EMILY ZHANG, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The senior elections were probably the closest some or most of us would get to voting this year and, to be quite honest, I was not feeling it. To say that it was lackluster is an understatement. Sadly that is what it was. I could whip out a thesaurus and find all the synonyms that mean dull but even that would not justify the listlessness of the event.

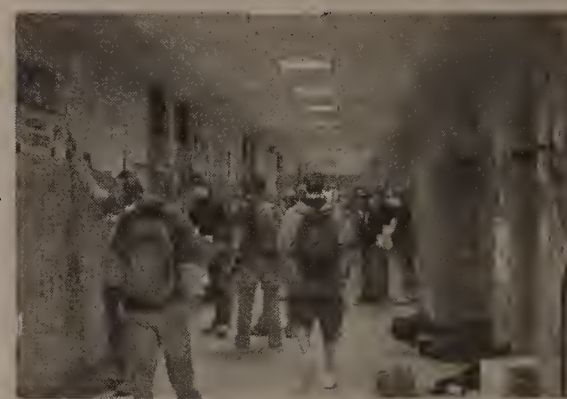
Where was the pizzazz that comes along with campaigning? Correct me if I am wrong but it seemed as though the tiny amount of energy mustered was strictly confined to the morning when the posters were put up. And when I

say confined to that one morning, I mean confined. Yes, there were the avid shouts of "Vote for _____!" by supporters, but where were the candidates themselves? I can count on one hand the number of candidates who came up to me and advocated why they were perfect for whatever position they were running for: three (and I am stretching it here). Three? Three out of twenty-seven candidates? That is just pathetic, to say the least. I understand that it is difficult to reach out to such a large senior class but I felt that there was no attempt made whatsoever-- Facebook groups do not cut it.

Speaking of which, were Facebook groups useful at all? It irked me to death to receive numerous invites telling me

to join a group named "Vote _____ for _____!" While some of my friends found that reading the group description allowed them to gain a better understanding of the candidate, I could not help but think that they all offered the same things, just phrased differently. There is only so much a page of words (except for this page of words: It will change your life!) can do; actually talking to people is the way to gain their confidence. I needed

to see that each candidate meant what they wrote. But I did not. It was as though they felt that saying to vote for them was enough to win over the student body. I did not learn anything new and was not 100 percent persuaded to vote for anyone. The few folks I have talked to about the elections agreed that getting



SENIORS GETTING READY FOR CLASS ELECTIONS

SENIOR CLASS ELECTIONS
Continued on page 8

You Were Once a Sixie Yourself!

By ANONYMOUS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dear Classes I, II, III, IV, and V,

I am speaking for most sixies when I say this: we don't want to be treated this way!

All we are trying to do is finish our first year at BLS. You think our lives are easy? Check again. We don't need all this attention about how our book bags are bigger than us and how we can't find our classes. We have been in the school for forty days, okay? How were your first forty days? I bet they weren't all that good either. You should be acting like role models, but instead you use your position for evil. How



REMEMBER THE GOOD LIFE?

sixie who doesn't want to be named out

of fear of retaliation says, "The lockers are a great way to get your stuff stolen, so why take the risk?" Others report that the lockers take a long time to open. It's hard memorizing our locker combinations when people constantly say, "Look at that sixie with the oversized book bag!" When you see a sixie fumbling at their locker, don't point and laugh--help them out! We blame you upperclassmen for our

locker situation!

So you want to make fun of us for our enormous book bags? Most of you upperclassmen know the whole school like the back of your hand. News flash, we don't. We have to carry around our books because we don't know where all of our classes are yet! I don't know how many times I've seen a poor sixie approach a tall, scary upperclassman, asking for directions to a certain room, only to be pointed in the wrong direction. This makes it even worse!

Oh, and another thing, there is no pool on the roof, okay? You don't realize that when you play these silly jokes on us that you're getting us confused... or maybe you DO realize. Another anonymous sixie says, "I was confused by the pool situation, but knew that BLS did

ONCE A SIXIE
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FORUM

Election Edition: Who would YOU vote for?



By WILLIAM POFF-WEBSTER, II
FORUM EDITOR

John McCain was a Democrat's Republican. He had it all—campaign finance reform, attacks on the Religious Right as “agents of intolerance,” and opposition to Bush’s tax cuts and torture of Guantanamo detainees. He truly deserved the title of Maverick.

But now, since he won the Republican nomination, we have realized that the only way we can use “Maverick” to describe McCain is to describe the Ford Maverick, one of the 13 cars he and his wife own—a label, that he can cast aside at will. And cast aside he has—denouncing special interests while his top campaign advisers are corporate lobbyists, choosing for his running mate a woman who thinks dinosaurs and humans walked together on Earth 6,000 years ago, and cravenly stepping back into the Republican fold on “enhanced interrogation” (also known as terrorism) and tax cuts for the rich (a.k.a. make the wealthiest 1% of Americans own even more than the 70% of the country’s wealth that they already do). Why did John McCain do this? Why would a man, who purposefully decided to stay in North Vietnam in solidarity with his comrades and was tortured in unspeakable ways, give up the integrity he has staked his career on? Being leader of the free world is a tempting prize, and John McCain is not the first to sacrifice his principles to attain it.

Still, the depths that he has sunk to are pretty impressive. In the 2000 primary campaign between McCain and George W. Bush, Bush hired a company to “robocall” voters—have a machine automatically call them and play a recorded message. So far, so good—Boston Latin School uses robocalls to tell us about snow days, and that is definitely something I do not want to miss. But these robocalls were different; they spread a rumor that McCain had fathered an illegitimate black child, a particularly effective ploy in South Carolina, where a Confederate flag still flies at the state capitol. In truth, the McCain family had adopted a daughter from Bangladesh—the robocall accusation was a baldfaced lie.

McCain at the time denounced these attacks as “scurrilous hate calls.” But then Bush won the Republican primary, and with it the Presidency. McCain must have taken notice because now, eight years later, voters are receiving similar robocalls from the McCain campaign (even using the same company that Bush did), alleging that Obama’s judgment should be questioned because of his connections with a radical named William Ayers, who committed acts of terrorism in the 1960s. His smear tactic is irrelevant, because Ayers reintegrated into society and is now a professor in Chicago, to say nothing of the fact that these terrorist acts were committed when Obama was eight years old.

So let me get this straight... While the United States is



By HILLARY CORNISH, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I think it’s about time that I come clean: I’m a Republican. Yes, I know, shocking. I’ll pause so you can close your consecutively dropped jaws.

But that’s enough of confessions; now for my actual point. This year’s election is closing in, and while many members of our families and Class of ‘09 head into the voting booths, I figured they should have a look at both sides of the political spectrum before their decisions are made.

The media today has been harsh on our candidates, especially John McCain. So please, allow me to shed some light and clear his name. Let me start off by saying that McCain and his running mate, Sarah Palin, are the candidates, not her daughter, or for that matter, her daughter’s baby.

When I began looking for candidates, I first and foremost wanted someone who has experience, knows how to handle themselves, and who shows leadership. John McCain is that candidate. The person who runs the country should have extensive experience. I believe that McCain is truly the only man with that under his belt. And here’s where you ask, “What about Joe Biden?” Well, Biden is a Vice Presidential, not Presidential, hopeful. We need the person at the top of the ticket -- McCain or Obama -- to have that type of experience, and Obama simply has not served the time.

When McCain served in the Navy, he was captured and tortured along with other American prisoners. He was given the opportunity to leave, but he refused to go anywhere without his fellow soldiers. He stayed by them. This shows his commitment not only to our fellow countrymen, but also to our country. Many citizens these days are against America and its policies, however, that’s not me. I love my country and so does John McCain.

The next step in my decision-making process was to look at my views compared to the candidates’. Also, allow me to clarify something that comes up multiple times when Republicans bring up their views: not all of us base our views on religion; we don’t always read and live by every word of the Bible like it was our... well, our Bible. A lot of times the case is, like my case, that as we get older we understand more issues and we decide for ourselves what is right and what is wrong. John McCain is a moderate Republican who has reached across the aisle, and his views coincide with mine.

As I was looking at Obama’s campaign promises, I realized that many were unattainable and pandering to get the votes of certain interest groups. For example, Obama’s

Forum Question

Versus Election Edition: Who would you vote for?



“I would vote for Obama because this country is a melting pot for all cultures and ethnicities and we need a president who recognizes that.”

—Anartya Mandal, I



“I would vote for Obama because he has better plans for the country. Also, if McCain wins, he might die and I don’t want Sarah Palin as our president.”

—Olga Ramos, II



“I would vote for Senator McCain because he is the best choice right now. We need someone who is experienced in foreign policy.”

—Phil Allison, III



“I would vote for Ron Paul because he knows a lot about economics and he agrees with me on everything. And he’s cool!”

—Maya Allegro, IV



“I would vote for Obama because he has a better outlook on our future as opposed to other candidates who are less interested in our current generation. .”

—Hannah Tran-Trinh, V



“I would vote for Obama because he is against the war. He would also be able to fix the economy more effectively.”

—Slater Ward, VI

OBAMA

Continued on page 8.

MCCAIN

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Spotlight

Daniel Lynch



BY QUEEN ARSEM O'MALLEY, I
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Daniel Lynch, a fan of Mr. Akesson, Cyrus Liu and Foxy Shazam, is clearly one of the most well-rounded people one could find (and at over 6'2", he's not very hard to find).

If a Boston Latin School student were to be wandering the music wing, they would be able to hear him keeping the Senior Band at the right tempo from his spot the percussion corner, a position he's held since sixth year. If said student were to proceed to the art wing, they would see his spray-painted stencils from his Foundations of Art class. And continuing to the third floor, this student would find the classrooms where Dan has taken AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, Physics and Chemistry. (His interest in biology also led him to a job in a nearby lab this summer.)

When not pursuing any of his artistic or scientific ambitions, Dan spends his after-school hours stretching with the boy's cross-country team, which he co-captains with friends Conrad Ennis and the aforementioned Cyrus Liu, or captaining the boy's swimming team for a second year.

You would think that with all of these extracurricular activities, Dan would have a difficult time keeping up with his academic work. His impressive GPA, challenging course schedule, and membership in the National Honor Society would prove you wrong. If keeping up his own GPA isn't enough work, Dan also spends some of his time spreading the intellectual wealth by tutoring at Saturday Success School, helping younger students with their work.

Besides representing BLS in multiple aspects, Dan is also a representative for his West Roxbury hometown in the Mayor's Youth Council, attending meetings and events with other representatives, and acting as a liaison between the youth of his neighborhood and city officials.

Someone else trying to do all of this would be extremely stressed, and probably pretty crabby, too. But Dan is always friendly and at ease. (This attitude could be aided by his lunches, which are "the best in the world," according to one anonymous source.) Dan is also extremely close to his parents, and his friends are often frustrated by his claims that he's too busy helping around the house to go out. But that's just typical Dan: Everyone clamoring after him (and occasionally paparazzi chasing him), but he chooses to help fix the water heater in his house.

If I could describe Dan in a few words, I wouldn't have had to write 450 of them. But if you take anything away from this Spotlight, it should be this: Not only is Dan awesome, fun, and well-rounded, he listens to both the Jonas Brothers and Dance Gavin Dance. And the better news? He doesn't have a senior prom date... yet.

OBAMA

Continued from page 7

engaged in two wars and the economy is in freefall despite the government resorting to corporate socialism, little to nothing is being done to stop the planet-altering effects of global warming, and the national debt clock in Times Square does not have enough digits to represent our nation's debt, which is now more than \$10 trillion, McCain wants to focus on some man Obama vaguely knows who committed terrorist acts forty years ago?

It is clear McCain is trying to change the subject from the problems he does not know how to solve. He once said that "the economy is not my strong suit," yet he wants to run the world economy. McCain's top economic adviser (incidentally, another lobbyist who pocketed millions from failing financial companies to stop government regulation) said that Americans are "a nation of whiners" and "in a mental recession" when hundreds of thousands are losing their homes. In a spectacular gimmick, McCain suspended his campaign to return to the Senate and "fix the bailout mess," only to see the first bailout package fail and him return ignominiously to campaigning. Worst of all, McCain has no plan to end the war in Iraq other than what we have already been doing--and that is costing \$10 billion a month.

McCain claims that he has experience, but that experience did not help him very much in 2003, when he wholeheartedly agreed with Bush that we would be "greeted as liberators" in Iraq, and when throughout his entire career he has been a "champion of deregulation"--the direct cause of the financial crisis. The Republican ticket can also forget about pretending Obama is an "elitist": he was raised by a single mom, while McCain owns 7 or 8 homes (no one is really sure--even he forgot when he was asked on public television) and 13 cars.

I realize that this article does not focus on Obama. However, Democrats are not very good at going on the attack, and I need to do it for them. John McCain is dangerous, and if he is elected, our country will sink deeper into the hole the Republicans have dug for it in the past eight years, both domestically and internationally. In contrast, Obama will stop cutting taxes for the rich and instead, help the middle class, bring jobs back to America, try to fix the financial crisis, stop fighting a war that we cannot even remember why we started, and restore our standing in the world.

How is that for a choice for you?

MCCAIN

Continued from page 7

tax cuts for the working class. Now, as a child of a low-income family, I should be ecstatic at such an idea. But Obama said, "we should spread the wealth around," and to me that's not the American way. You can't just erase taxes for one group of people and raise it for another group. Where's the equality in that? Just because someone worked harder doesn't mean that they should be punished for it.

Obama also supports affirmative action. Here's where the question should pop up again: What about equality? I don't want to work hard my entire life just to lose a job because a race or gender quota had to be filled, or the white female percentage was too high. Whoever deserves a job should receive it and whoever is smart enough to get into a school should get in. It should never be race or gender-based.

Now, I know I have left the most controversial topics out, but it's because I believe that only the candidate themselves can detail their views on these issues. Think about it. In today's society, all you're listening to is the media and in Massachusetts, the liberal media is supreme.

Vote for the candidate you believe is the best for the presidency and if you really care for my opinion, here it is: John McCain is experienced, and he's an upstanding guy, who loves his country, and has proven himself. I understand he's older (and this isn't just because I have a soft spot for the elderly), but he's not that old. I've seen older and he will not be going anywhere within the next four years except, hopefully, to the White House.

Forum wants to hear your suggestions on what the next Versus question should be, as well as your responses to this issue's articles! Please feel free to email us at
blsargo.forum@gmail.com

It's Okay,

I Wasn't Using My Government Services Anyway

BY ESHE SHIRLEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We all agree that Massachusetts is worth taking care of. For the Committee for Small Government and its supporters, however, maintaining the state has become secondary to putting some extra cash in our pockets. Lowering taxes has always been popular; those who want to eliminate the state income tax are particularly blatant about their intent. Their proposal, Question One, would "reduce the state personal income tax rate to 2.65% for the tax year beginning on January 1, 2009, and would eliminate the tax for all tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2010." The proposal will be on the same ballot as our elected officials at the voting booths on November 4.

Advocates for the passage of Question One contend that Beacon Hill needs to be sent a message concerning responsibility with state dollars-- this is the way to do it. When asked about subsequent tax hikes in other areas, like property taxes, proponents argue that we are protected by Proposition Two and a Half, which bans hikes in property taxes. Most districts, however, do not tax property to the limit anyway, so if this bill passes, they could lawfully raise property taxes to the limit.

When asked about the government's inability to pay for state services because of the loss of revenue, backers argue that politicians will change their spending habits in order to meet our needs. This is naïve at best. Currently we are looking at a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall that has already spurred significant cuts in many important areas. What happened to that increased police force Deval Patrick had promised? Gone, we simply cannot afford it. The first thing he mentioned in his budget-cutting speech was a huge loss for state parks. Losing another \$12 billion does not seem in the least bit prudent and would require not only increased property taxes but also higher fees.

How does this matter to us in Boston, and in Boston Latin School? We all hate taking out the trash, but things could be a lot worse. After all, at least your trash gets collected by the

INCOME TAX

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SENIOR CLASS ELECTIONS

Continued from page 6

the full picture of each candidate was limited. As one senior said, "People I have never spoken to started talking to me as if I was their best friend and that was it. You could tell that they just wanted my vote. It was very ingenuine." However, some might argue that each candidate did in fact advocate for themselves efficiently. Of course they did...to people they already knew. What is the point in that? Answer: there is no point.

As I sat down to vote for the first time, a lot of the names that showed up on the paper barely registered in the sense



OUR PRESIDENT IS JUST AS CUTE

that 1) I did not even know that they were running and 2) I had no sense of what they could offer, what made them stand out from the crowd. All I had was my general idea of each candidate as a student in school, not a leader. Judging each candidate by character seemed to be the case for most students. "It was hard to know what to base my vote on," one person said. "I had to think about how well I knew each candidate. I mean, I knew them around school and in classes but I didn't know what their personalities were like and if they'd do a good job." Another senior added that, "It was really hard to pick a person since you'd vote for them first and then hear their speeches. This probably eliminated a lot of qualified people."

But what is done is done. Let us hope that the newly elected class officers prove me (and us) wrong.

FORUM

Sixies, I've Got a Lesson For You

By BEVERLY NGUYEN, III
Assistant News Editor

Have you ever yelled at someone, specifically a certain *small* someone, for sitting in your seat in the dining hall, only to be faced with the comeback: "Well, it doesn't have your name on it *Snap Snap Snap*"? But when you're an upperclassman attending Boston Latin School, you don't need your name on the table. You have, or you *should* have, what we call "privileges."

Since their first day here, sixies have been crowding around the doors in the dining hall in the morning, but it was not the sixies of the class of 2014 who started the trend. It seems to be their instinct to block any exit from the dining hall before 7:25. Lately, sixies have been migrating from the doors to the tables. Most of the tables, however, have already been claimed by upperclassmen, who were clever enough to mark their territory on the first day of their sixie year. Upperclassmen have realized that the sky will not fall if they do not arrive at school by 7:00 and in fact, it's incredibly sad to do so. By the time they get here at 7:15, their table is filled with seventh graders. "I had to eat my bagel standing up because these diminutive people stole my seat. I didn't even have a space to spread my cream cheese!" said an irate Uyen Le (II). The

upperclassmen have two choices: they can either tell them to move, or they can stand-- and go creamcheese-less.

Don't get me wrong, I know that sixies do not have it easy; I have been in the same situation before, in fact, most of us have. I almost had a heart attack when I arrived at 7:05. Yes, forty minutes before school actually starts. You know you too were freaking out when you got to school at 6:59 (do not deny it).

Sixies are ridiculed and often are the butt of upperclassmen jokes, which does not help when you are in your first year of a prestigious school and are expected to perform your best. Overall, I sympathize with them, having a few sixie friends myself, but it is difficult to do so when I show up at my table in the morning, only to find that it has already

been "claimed" by a mob.

On a normal day, I am generally in a decent mood, but when I see a hoard of sixies sitting obliviously at my table, the beast inside me awakens. Sadly, that beast is more like a lame little puppy than the Hulk. It is pretty hard to tell them to leave because that is just plain mean, and it leaves me feeling awful afterward, but a line has to be drawn somewhere.

For the last forty days, my table has been the target of three different

sixie groups; in fact, the tables surrounding mine, once occupied by upstanding upperclassmen, have been overtaken by these BLS newbies.

Part of the reason for my hissy fit is the fact that upperclassmen need privileges. I mean, after attending BLS for several years, you would hope to at least be able to sit at your own morning table without any trouble. I realize that this "claiming of the tables" doesn't seem that serious to some, but when you and your friends have been sitting in the same place since the first day of sixie year, it's pretty hard to give that up. We are not giving up our table so easily just because there are sixies sitting there. It's not like we can find other tables to sit at because there aren't any left!

I understand that sixies do not have much of an option, since it is their first year, and they have only been at BLS for two months, but they need to learn to find their own tables or risk having upperclassmen kick them out.

As advice to those sixies who were debating whether to take an upperclassman table or not, do not be like Julius Caesar when he said, "*Veni, vidi, vici.*" Don't get in the way of spreading



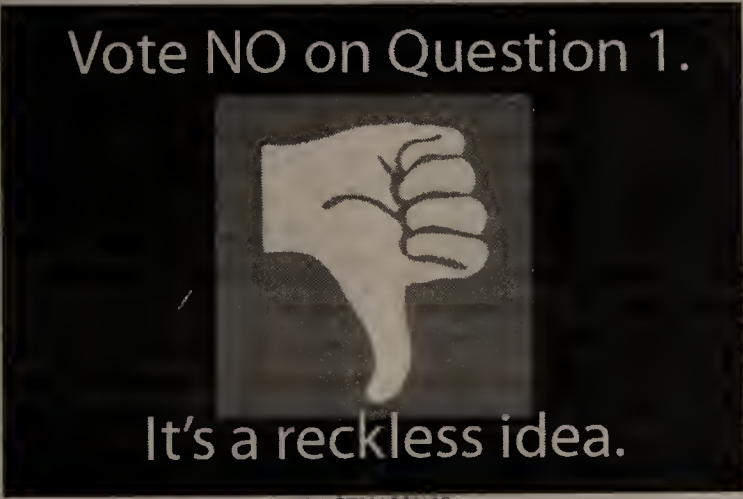
REMEMBER THE BAD LIFE?

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INCOME TAX
Continued from page 8

the government, free of charge. Without revenue to pay for such services, who will take away the trash? This example may seem a little extreme, but it is reality in the state of New Hampshire, where residents are forced to pay for private trash collection. And guess what? They don't have a state income tax.

Boston Latin does not always seem like a paradise, but it is a lot better than most schools in Massachusetts-- and Massachusetts actually ranks second in education out of all 50 states! Texas and Tennessee have much lower rankings in education than Massachusetts, and they just so happen to not have state income taxes. Nevertheless there are some states that do just fine without an income tax, right? Well, yes, a few do. But when an economic crisis occurs (Gee, I wonder when is the last time I heard about the US having an economic crisis... maybe right now?), it is nice to have a source of steady income, unlike a state like Florida. Florida gained \$44.9 billion in exports in 2007, which produced a considerable amount of tax revenue. That number is now greatly reduced due to the economic crisis. Without the \$12 billion in revenue from income tax, funding for education will ultimately be reduced. In Boston alone, the estimated spending cut will be 42 percent. In states that do not spend as much money on education, class sizes can spiral into the upper 30s or even 40s, and students will be packed into classrooms without even enough chairs!



IT ACTUALLY IS.

MICHELLE YAN (U) & KOPHALINI (U)

Sure, school is not something most of us enjoy, but is that preferable? There is even the possibility that the University of Massachusetts would be forced to close if Question One passes, which would eliminate a low-cost opportunity for college when it is most needed.

Supporters argue that the extra \$3,700 saved by taxpayers from the proposed plan will help supplement the lost income by putting the money back into responsible hands and jump-starting the economy. This omits the poorer citizens of Massachusetts--they pay less tax anyway, and would only gain a few hundred dollars from the removal of the tax. Nevertheless, the lost value in state services would amount to a huge loss for Massachusetts's worst-off citizens. Community outreach programs, job training and other such state-run programs would be downsized or cut completely. Passing Question One would be an offense to the less fortunate of Massachusetts, and all this for a couple extra thousand dollars a year? There is nothing to call that but selfishness.

We all want our representatives and legislators to be responsible with our valuable tax dollars. Already plunged in \$1.5 billion in debt, disposing of a source of steady income is one of the most irresponsible things they could do. Property taxes would rise and hurt already struggling schools. Funding for community colleges, health care, and other state-run services would either be reduced or scratched completely. It is obvious why the lawn signs say, "No On Question One. It's a Reckless Idea."

ONCE A SIXIE
Continued from page 6

not have one; I don't understand why [the upperclassmen] would lie about something like that."

The next issue is the lunch tables. Why do you have to scare us into moving? Does it really matter what table you sat at last year? We weren't even here! How would we know that this was your table? A sixie declares, "It felt really bad because all my friends were with me and they were really mean. I had a girl come up to me in the nicest voice saying 'Can you please get up?' I said okay, maybe for her, but then her whole posse ate me alive! There were almost twenty of them and they came like a pack of hungry wild beasts; it was terrifying!"

We aren't just forced out of a good lunch table. How come sixies are never allowed on the sports teams? A sixie says, "It sucks because some of us are really good." Some of us have really good skills. We sixies have things we can contribute to the teams! Coaches say they want sixies not to fall behind in their schoolwork, but why don't the coaches just put a higher grade average requirement for joining a team, like a C+, and let us play?

Overall, it seems like it is definitely true when a sixie says, "It is hard because everyone is looking down on you." I can relate to that because we are "at the bottom of the food chain." And we can't change that, because the upperclassmen demand it! We feel that we should have a say on issues that go on around BLS and we don't want to be left out of everything.

It is stressful being a sixie and transitioning into the Boston Latin culture because some of us came from schools that were much easier. We cannot help the big book bags, the confusion about the pools, or the fact that we can't get a seat at lunchtime. Those are the least of our worries. We are learning a new language and for some of us, the work is quite difficult. We don't have the brain cells to worry about book bags or lockers because our minds are on a million other things. So help us out, and make our lives a little easier. Maybe, if we don't have to worry about upperclassmen mistreating us, we can get through these next six years and just possibly get a few things into our lockers.

Sincerely,
(A disgruntled member of) The Class of 2014



THIS WOULD BE STOPPED BY OUR ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN

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A & E

No Lovebug for the Jonas Brothers

By CAITLIN WALSH, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

These days, it's hard to go through a mere 24 hours without hearing one of the Jonas Brothers' songs, whether it be on the radio, on TV, or from someone who'd love to join the family a bit too much. Whether we like it or not, it's inevitable; these cookie-cutter brothers are everywhere, and people won't realize that their music is complete trash anytime soon. The brothers will continue receiving airplay, and people will keep belting out their songs. It's an unfortunate realization for those of us with even the slightest taste in music.

I realize that I'm going to have a lot of people—many of my friends included—hate me for this article. Surprisingly, nobody has thought of saying this yet, and it's my job to say it: the Jonas Brothers are nothing but cheesy products of the Disney goody-gbody teen era. We've got Miley Cyrus, the Jonas Brothers, Zac Efron and Hilary Duff...the list goes on. Very few stars have ever been able to truly break away from the Disney Corporation's clutch and make a name for themselves. Shia LeBeouf, a former star of *Even Stevens*, now stars in blockbusters like *Disturbia*, *Transformers*, and *Indiana Jones*. The Jonas Brothers, however, won't be able to maintain their appeal outside of Disney's audience.

I don't know these guys personally, but how can anyone see them as anything

but cliché? They're depicted as all-American boys who believe in true love, who want to

look a girl in the eyes and "catch a glimpse of heaven," and they have haircuts that Hollywood already had. Their love for women's skinny jeans and preppy shirts also drives me up the wall. Maybe they can start displaying an original fashion sense when they realize that the entire female population shares most of the clothes they have in their own closets—let's hope, anyway. Even worse, they claim they

weren't in it for the fame, that they just love to play their music all night long, that

they write about "real" stuff, and are just normal kids. The last time I checked, "normalcy" doesn't include top Billboard hits, dating Taylor Swift, and a tour bus. The Jonas Brothers say that they play rock music, and it makes me sad that they think they can be grouped

in the same genre as The Who, Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Doors, and Led Zeppelin. I haven't heard anything but



THIS IS NOT A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

Just Another Action Movie?

By RACHEL TRIPP, III
STAFF WRITER

In this high-action conspiracy thriller, slacker Jerry Shaw (convincingly played by Shia LaBeouf) returns from his brother's funeral to find his previously empty bank account filled with \$750,000, and his apartment stuffed to the brim with poison, passports, and various weapons. He then receives an anonymous phone call from a woman warning him that he has been "activated". Dismissing the call as a prank, Shaw hangs up, only to be captured by quadrilles of FBI agents and framed as a terrorist seconds later in a stunning burst of high-action drama.

Eagle Eye is basically what you would expect from a typical action-thriller/conspiracy movie. Characters walk away from high-speed car chases and firearm assaults

with nigh a scratch on them. Every eight to ten minutes something blows up, distracting the audience from the weak plot and minimal character development. Watching *Eagle Eye* gets you leaning forward in your seat in anticipation of

the next big plot twist that will have you



IF YOU WANT TO LIVE YOU WILL OBEY

possibly prevail. The technological plot twist is clever, and after watching the movie, I am not quite sure whether or not to be afraid of my BlackBerry.

The unrealistic plot, paired with overdone graphics, is saved by the surprisingly charismatic on-screen presence of LaBeouf and Michelle Monaghan, as well as the strong performance of Billy Bob Thornton as a harrowing FBI agent. The theme surrounding the fear of over-advancement of technology is well-founded. Director DJ Caruso and Shia LaBeouf make a good pair, as they did in their last film together, *Disturbia*. If you are looking for two hours of fast-paced nonstop action, then *Eagle Eye* is for you. Deep meaning or in-depth plot? Not so much. Overall, *Eagle Eye* has its flaws, but succeeds at being the over-the-top, action-filled thriller it set out to be.

Boston Events

To get all of you more involved in school and the community, and to become more "engaged citizens" the Argo has added an Events Section!

School Events

Halloween at School (10/31)

Come to school dressed up in your best (dress code approved) costume or arrive with a group of friends wearing similar costumes. You can automatically enter yourself and your group of friends into the annual BLS costume contest. Have a dollar ready to pay for the costume fee.

Home & School Association Auction (11/14) - Parents are invited to Harvard Medical School's Conference Room for the annual auc-

tion. All proceeds will go towards senior scholarships. Last year's auction items included gift certificates, sports tickets, autographed memorabilia and more!

A.S.I.A. (11/18) - Join A.S.I.A. members at a fun-filled event, called CSI: A.S.I.A. right afterschool in Room 135 to learn about an ancient Chinese story twisted with mystery and deception. Also, test out your detective skills while getting a change to get to know some of your fellow A.S.I.A. members! Everyone is invited!

The Hypnotist (11/21) - Watch your friends and teachers get hypnotized and make fools out of themselves! A world renowned hypnotist comes and works his magic on around twenty people. All the money raised from ticket sales will go towards helping to pay for Facing History's trip to Eastern Europe.

"The Idiot Box" (11/20, 21, 22) - BLS Theater's only student-directed play of the year revolves around a group

of sitcom characters whose lives start to unravel. The characters learn about the hardships of reality and try to get their lives back to normal.

"Merrily We Roll Along," (12/4-6) a Stephen Sondheim production, discusses the progression of three close friends (Frank, Charley, and Mary) as they try to "make it big" in the 1960s to 1970s - inspired by the revolutionary events such as the launching of *Sputnik*. However, as the musical proceeds, it becomes evident that life doesn't always go according to plan.

Be a Student Activist! - Join the Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network (BLS YouthCAN) and learn about ways in which you can reduce the effects Global Warming. Or, join BLS STAND and help combat genocides. To join YouthCAN, drop by 025 afterschool on Mondays and/or Thursday. To join STAND, drop by room 307 afterschool every Tuesday.

Save the Seals! - Donate towels to S.E.A.L.'s ongoing towel drive for the Aquarium to help rehabilitate stranded sea turtles seals. Please bring towels to the main office; there is a S.E.A.L. box outside the door. Any amount is appreciated.

Alewif Cleanap (11/16) S.E.A.L. is hosting a cleanup at Alewife Reservation on Sunday, November 16th. Come to a S.E.A.L. meeting on Tuesday in room 115 if you are interested!

Boston Events

Vegetarian Food Festival (11/1) - Are you a vegetarian? Visit the Reggie Lewis Athletics Center if you want to be a part of the festivities. There will be engaging speakers and top chefs attending along with a wide array of natural vegetarian food samples.

Frog Pond Ice Skating - The Frog Pond, located Downtown, will be opening this month.

Spotlight Jasper Hobbs



BY MOSES TRAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you were to ask me the names of famous jazz musicians, I would say Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, and Jasper Hobbs. I would not be surprised if Jasper Hobbs was mentioned in the same sentence as any of those guys and neither should you. Jasper Hobbs is a very musically talented and gifted student at Boston Latin School. He is part of the BLS Big Band, Football Band, Concert Band, and anything else that ends in band. Aside from being part of several music bands, Jasper is also armed and dangerous, especially when holding an instrument. Besides the saxophone, he has in his arsenal the piano, guitar, flute, and tabla, most of which were self-taught. In addition to school-based music programs, he also participates in many music programs out of school. For example, he attended Berklee College of Music over the summer and is a member of City Music.

Every single time I see Jasper, he is with his saxophone. Whether it's on the orange line, the 39 bus, or at the morning lunch table, if Jasper's there, his saxophone is there with him and with good reason too. If you have ever wandered the music wing or have gone to the winter and spring concerts, you would have heard how great a player he truly is. Beside from playing music, he does what we all like to do. These activities include spending his time outside with his friends, such as shooting hoops on the basketball court at Clemente Field, playing football in the bitter cold wind, or playing volleyball on the school's varsity team.

Not only is Jasper diverse with his instruments, he is diverse with his friends. He is friends with just about everyone, jocks, asians, whites, musicians, and people from all walks of life. Jasper does not work hard only on his musical skills, but also on his academics. He gets all of his work in on time, and is an exemplary student.

Jasper is one of those dead quiet people whom you might not notice right away, but if given the chance to speak to show himself and his personality, he's someone everyone enjoys being around. I certainly enjoy Jasper's company, especially when he wakes me up on the 39 in the morning so I do not miss my stop. If Jasper were to make his own band, they should call it the Hobb Mob. If anyone needs a great sax player or wants to join a band, they should go to Jasper Hobbs, the man who likes chicken kebobs.

BY BIANCA SAUNDERS, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is befitting that Harvard Square, with its own unique flavor, consists of restaurants that contribute to the area's identity. *The Redline* in Harvard Square, aptly named after its location, draws a large crowd with its darkly painted walls, dark wooded tables and comfortable chairs. On the whole, *The Redline* restaurant has a hip, laid back atmosphere, providing an upscale dining experience without the upscale dining prices. The music and plasma screen TV in the restaurant makes it the perfect place to blow off steam on a Friday or to catch a sports game. Shake those Monday blues away by playing free trivia games to win gift certificate prizes. Listen to the live entertainment provided by the restaurant, including the smooth sounds of the Ed McMahon Trio Jazz band every Thursday or kick off your weekend with live DJ's on Fridays and Saturdays.

Perhaps the most important part of your dining experience is the food! Picky eaters will have no complaints about *The Redline*. The menu, although a bit small,

has a variety of different, delectable foods ranging from brushetta, to calamari, to a salmon; and those are only the appetizers! Each appetizer is large enough to share with at least two to three people and will have you licking your fingers and begging for more. The buffalo wings are especially recommended.

The restaurant offers a variety of beautifully prepared and presented soups, salads, sandwiches, and entrees, including New York sirloin, stuffed chicken, and grilled salmon. Sandwiches are mouthwatering and are served alongside a mountain of French fries. The dish to top all dishes is *Redline's* white truffle macaroni and cheese – it is truly a dish for the gods. It's a creamy dish loaded with cheese and a Ritz cracker crumb topping.

I must admit, however, that not all aspects of *The Redline* impressed me. *The Red-*

line may not satisfy those with a sweet tooth; they do not have a set dessert menu, only a small choice of daily specials. I went there at five o'clock on a Friday and there was only one other party eating. As such, I was expecting service to be a little speedier, but it was just mediocre. Our waitress was competent, but not very personable; she didn't strike up a conversation with customers or introduce herself. At a place like Harvard Square, I would have expected the staff to be more upbeat than this.

Prices are fair. Nothing on the menu costs more than twenty dollars, perfect for those on a budget such as college and high school students. *The Redline* has a way of taking old school favorites and pub food and making them upscale and sophisticated. It is a truly unique dining experience that offers a cosmopolitan atmosphere and a diverse, gourmet menu. So, check out *The Redline*, it will be the most scrumptuous ride you ever take!



PERFECT STOP FOR COMFORT CUISINE!

BY EMILY ZHANG, I
STAFF WRITER

With the deteriorating economy in the crapper, it is amazing that we can still rely on the music industry to keep producing stellar records (well, most of the time, anyway). In fact, the month of October saw releases from a number of bands reverent to the Indie scene. It is with a heavy heart that I share these gems with the rest of the public. Think about all the times your special musical find became everyone's new favorite band thanks to [insert type of corporate sponsorship and immediate downfall]. Oh, head spin! By doing so, I reserve the right to say, "I knew about these guys way before you." Ha, I kid, I kid. You think being pretentious is cool but it is not.

Japanther – *Tut Tut Now Shake Ya Butt*

Formed in 2001 by Ian Vanek and Matt Reilly, this duo from Brooklyn is not new to the music scene, but they are definitely steps closer to crossing over from underground sensation to mainstream explosion, having recently toured with Against Me!. Known for their intense and crazy shows (all I can say is synchronized swim team and pay phone receivers), Japanther is sure to be a treat for those who have yet to experience one of Brooklyn's finest. The band brought a raw and intense sound to listeners with their last album *Skuffed Up My Huffy*, and continues to do the same on *Tut Tut Now Shake Ya Butt* with their quirky tape loops and catchy songs. Who can't help but let loose while listening to Vanek and Reilly sing, "When I look around, I can't see the things that my parents promised me / We've come so far but as far as we've gone off track / It's time we look at what we've done" amidst the scruffy guitar riffs and fast paced drumming? "Bumpin' Rap Tapes" and "Radical Businessman" are tamer in comparison to past songs but still contain the fervor that is Japanther. Despite their rough sound, the band manages to pull off a fantastic cover of *New Bad Things'* song "The Dirge." (In my opinion, any band that can make a NBT's song their own is invincible.)

Los Campesinos! – *We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed*

Compared to their neighbors, the Welsh barely make a mark in the music

scene, but this seven piece band from Cardiff will most likely change all that pretty soon. Not even a year has passed since their critically acclaimed debut album *Hold On Now, Youngster...*, and already ten new songs are being released for our enjoyment. Sophomore slump? I think not. Los Campesinos! have really outdone themselves this time. In the months between their first release and *We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed*, the band has managed to live up to expectations while tying up some loose ends. There is a noticeable difference in sound, but the original upbeat style and passion that captured fans and bloggers is apparent. The melodies are captivating; the tambre is stronger and more dynamic than before (refer to the unrestrained sonic outbursts that litter the entire album). Los Campesinos! have always peppered their songs with clever

only con? The album is slated for a limited, worldwide release. We are doomed indeed!

of Montreal – *Skeletal Lamping*

To be succinct, there is some serious psychedelic trippiness going on here.

To be more specific, there has been no other band like of Montreal that has been perverting the Indie scene for years. (Glam rock, alter egos, cross dressing – whaaat?) The new album revolves around lead singer Kevin Barnes' doppelganger, an, ahem, "interesting" character by the name of Georgie Fruit, who was unleashed in the second half of the band's last album, *Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?*. Following the steps of the aforementioned record, Barnes and crew continue to construct the electronic psychedelia and 1980s funk they have come to be known for. *Skeletal Lamping* is like a schizophrenic oscillation between mental states with its obvious highs and lows and the static background cranked up to eleven. Throughout the 15 songs, there are constant unpredictable changes of style and tempo. Scattered would probably be the best way to describe the band's effort but it definitely works to their advantage. The first track, "Nonpareil of Flavor" is a microcosm of what to expect from



OF MONTREAL, OF SKELETAL LAMPING

observations and references, and have taken a giant leap to harness their talent. Not once does this go wrong as the whole gang chants, "Shout at the world because the world doesn't love you! / Lower yourself because you know that you'll have to" on "Miserabilia." In "The End Of The Asterick," repeating "Uh oh, uh oh, uh oh / This is the end of the asterisk / Babe, that's got nothing on me / This is the end of the footnote" is ridiculously addicting and it cannot get more honest when lead singer Gareth sings, "I cannot emphasize enough that my body is a badly designed, poorly put together vessel / Harboring these diminishing so called vital organs" on *We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed*. The

Skeletal Lamping. The song starts off with keyboards which quickly give way to synthesized drums and high pitched vocals. A short blues section interjects for a moment and leads to an energized buildup of drums, bass and guitar. The song abruptly halts as the next song begins. If you have ever wondered what ADD feels like, this is probably the closest you would ever get to finding out.

Despite all this, the album is an ode to love, albeit a sexually explicit ode; yes, it is *that* kind of album. The album is absolutely jam-packed with catchy motives and fragments that will stick in your head for days. Just don't let the album fall into the wrong hands.

A & E

An Un-Knightley Proposal

BY SILVANA VIVAS, I
STAFF WRITER

At the sight of Keira Knightley in a ball gown once again, many people may have tossed *The Duchess* aside as another Elizabethan era film, with Knightley as the ultimate typecast protagonist. However, haste is ill-advised in rejecting a film that contains some of the best-quality acting to hit theaters in a while. The plot may seem archetypal to many viewers—an 18th century aristocratic woman must cope with the stressful pressures of the public eye and an arranged marriage to an insensitive, cruel husband. The protagonist, Georgianna, Duchess of Devonshire, is an ancestor of Princess Diana, which adds a level of historical relevance to the film.

The movie opens as the young and naïve Georgianna (Knightley) awaits her marriage to the wealthy Duke of Devonshire (Ralph Fiennes). The anticipation lasts until she discovers that his only desire is to use her for conceiving male heirs, all the while having affairs with other women ranging from servants to ladies of high society. However, when Georgianna fails to produce a male heir, her best friend

Lady Elizabeth Foster (Hayley Atwell) becomes the object of the Duke's affection. During the affair, the three actually live in the same mansion [awkward]. Meanwhile, Georgianna turns to an old acquaintance, Earl Lord Charles Grey (Dominic Cooper), and has a passionate affair of her own. She distracts herself from her miserable life at home by wearing her own outrageous hairstyles and gown designs, gambling and drinking wildly at parties, and making influential appearances at Whig functions with Grey. After several nervous breakdowns, she has to choose between living a life with the coldhearted Duke and running away with Grey.

Although some may find it sappy, this hodgepodge of affairs keeps *The Duchess* alive. Unfortunately for history buffs, the movie hardly touches on her role in English society—her political

involvement is only briefly depicted, and her gambling and drinking habits are underplayed. The overall level of debauchery in the film pales in comparison to that of similar films, such as *Marie Antoinette*.

On the other hand, the acting is among the best caliber in history. Knightley expresses her role's suppressed rage and loneliness with her usual grace. This contrasts perfectly with Fienne's portrayal of the Duke's unsettling tyranny that bursts upon constant provocation. Many may mock Knightley's inclination toward period pieces, but she is sincere in her

portrayal of a character who would otherwise just be known as an early predecessor to Princess Diana. The film foreshadows the latter's discontented private life, as well as the weight of her public life. In short, put your *Pirates of the Caribbean* DVD away for a night and engulf yourself in a movie with less action and more romance—it will equally suffice your moviegoer needs.



A SCANDAL THAT SHOCKED A NATION

It's Not a Secret Anymore

BY MONICA BULGER, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I admit, when I walked into *The Secret Life of Bees*, I did not have very high expectations. My enthusiasm for the movie was spoiled, thanks to one friend who was too afraid of Dakota Fanning. The remaining just complained. In the end, I decided to give it a chance.

I assure you, it is in your best interest to do the opposite of what I did—do not go. *The Secret Life of Bees* could have been a good movie if it had been well-constructed and interesting. Instead, it fails to captivate the audience. Surprisingly, the movie has an enticing opening, just like the book (which is, in contrast, a masterpiece): the scene of Lily watching her parents fight violently would make any movie-goer excited. The

promise of a good movie to come is made at that point, but certainly not kept. The audience spends about twenty minutes anticipating the resolution of the dramatic opener, but quickly loses all interest. The woman next to me started listening to her voice-mails, and my friends giggled about floating dust particles. I began to realize the extent to which this movie fails miserably.

If you have read and fully appreciated the novel, then you, too, will be offended. In the book, Lily's caretaker, Rosaleen, is depicted as a courageous and responsible role model for Lily. Instead, the movie portrays Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson) as a rather insolent character who stumbles along after Lily (Dakota



THIS SHOULD HAVE JUST STAY IN THE BOOKS

Where's Fluffy?

BY ELEANOR HARTE, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Based on the novel written by Rachel Cohn, the romantic comedy *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* chronicles the events of one night involving two New York teenagers. Although they have not met, their lives become inevitably intertwined. One is a nerdy band geek named Nick (Michael Cera) who is still obsessively pining over his ex-girlfriend, Tris (Alexis Dziena), even though she has moved on. Tris makes it known that her ex-boyfriend is completely pathetic by tossing out the "lame" mix CDs he still gives her. Norah enters the scene as the daughter of a famous record industry owner who slyly digs through trash, just to get her hands on these mixes. In the meantime, she finds herself falling in love with the creator of these mixes—a guy who she has never met—solely based upon their shared musical tastes. Then one night, Nick, Norah, and Tris find themselves at the same concert. Norah, lying to Tris about arriving with a date, saves her reputation by grabbing Nick

and asking him to be her boyfriend "for the next five minutes." They kiss, and soon after, Norah finds out that he is "Tris' Nick." The rest of the night involves a gay band, a hunt to find a mystery performance of the band "Where's Fluffy," and rechewed gum.

Directed by Peter Sollett, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* stars well-known actors such as Michael Cera (*Juno* and *Superbad*) and Kat Dennings (*The House Bunny*). The lines these actors were given were witty and the jokes well delivered. Kat Dennings fit her role perfectly as Norah. However, I disliked Alexis Dziena in her over exaggerated role as Tris. In each scene, she was too whiny and flirtatious. If this is what the director intended, then Dziena did a great job portraying Tris as nothing but an aggravating girl, who is too melodramatic to realize anything. Although I think that Michael Cera has again superbly portrayed his character, he needs to expand his horizons beyond the lovable geek type. Overall, Cera and Dennings are a great pair. They did well in depicting believably

awkward and cute moments between Nick and Norah; they had great on-screen chemistry.

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist, as a movie, was very good. The humor was top-notch and unpredictable. There were many "laugh out loud" moments, and unlike some movies, not all of them were revealed in the commercials. Also, the soundtrack was noteworthy. It was very similar to the Indie music in the *Juno* soundtrack. Personally, I thought that the best track was the opening song, "Speed of Sound," by Chris Bell. The music came in at all the right moments.

The movie passes by quickly, and once it is over, you find yourself saying, "Wow, that seemed really short!" However, at ninety minutes, it is a movie that pulls you in and engrosses you in its lovable storyline. It brings out a lot of extreme reactions from the viewers. Though it may not Oscar-winning material, it is a movie that will stay with you for a while and lighten up your mood. And for the single ladies, it might make you want to go and get a boyfriend.

Spotlight
Hayley Johnson

BY BRIGID BUCK, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If ever you are looking for Hayley Johnson, just walk around the music wing, and I guarantee she will be there. She is a member of every existing choral group (as well as a bell choir), except Wolftones, for obvious reasons (though I would not be surprised to see her undergo a variety of operations to change this). She spends at least ninety percent of her time on Floor 1A, where her voice stands out the most—especially in the soprano section of Concert Choir. And if she is not caught singing THERE, I guarantee that you will hear her humming away in the hallway, at her lunch table, on the bus, down the stairs, or next to you in your Statistics class. She belts out high C's with amazing ease (after lifting the soft pallet and dropping the jaw of course), and is always ready to share her deep musical knowledge. In fact, she was made the official section leader of the sopranos in Concert Choir. But this generous singer doesn't hog all her talents to herself. She volunteers teaching younger children to sing—helping younger children to realize their potential as singers.

Singing is not her only talent. For the last eleven years, Hayley has been an advanced dancer, taking lessons in various forms, including the unorthodox but instrumental art of Dance Dance Revolution. These skills are useful in her position as Show Choir Dance Captain. Another notable talent of this energetic and spry gal is her capacity for food, which is odd considering her size. She can really chow down and even prides herself on this great feat. Fruits and vegetables, however, are not a part of her regular diet, even though she insists that strawberry and banana smoothies count.

Most recently, the enthusiastic and outgoing Haley has scored a roll in the Fall musical, "Merrily We Roll Along," lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim. In this tale of three old friends living in the 1960s to 1970s, Haley plays Beth, the wife of main character Franklin Shephard (Tadesh Inagaki). She has also played the Ghost of Lily in last year's musical, "Secret Garden" and held other vital roles in past musicals. Haley hopes to major in musical theatre, a dream that I believe will become a reality.

In spite of her loud and quirky personality, or even because of it, Hayley makes a wonderful friend; she is always ready with a hug and a corny joke to lighten up anyone's day, regardless of how her own day has been going. As her official "BFFL" since sixth year, I feel I have the authority to say: she's a keeper!

Inside Out

By NICOLE ESTEVEZ, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The art show hosted by the School of the Museum of Fine Arts (SMFA), now under the new name InsideOut: The Museum School Art Sale, is back for yet another year for a few days on November 19 to 23. Formerly known as the December Sale, the 28th annual event raises money for school scholarships together with the Midnight Blooming Fund.

If you're asking yourself, "Why the name change?" the answer can be found in the change of date and also in the ultimate goal of the sale. According to the event's website, "While the sale has become an important program of the school, its name has never fully represented what [they] are about: fostering the education of artists through creative investigation, risk-taking, and individual vision. Nor has its name conveyed the dynamic interchange...encouraged and promoted between the school's community of artists

and the public at large." I personally feel that InsideOut represents the ability to see art from any perspective. The SMFA is a fine tuning of raw material molded into something new from the inside out.

Correlating to the objectives of the sale as a whole, the Midnight Blooming Fund, started by SMFA faculty member Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, is an endowed scholarship fund enabling underprivileged, yet talented, students to participate in both the undergraduate and graduate programs at the SMFA. According to Ms. Campos-Pons, "[The fund] is a rare plant; it needs to be tended carefully and constantly. Only

then will the plant offer a magnificent bloom to its caregiver, revealing its mystery in a choreographic display that lasts for hours. If one is privileged with the gift of the blossom and has the patience to stay through the night, one can witness the unfolding of a creation of unimaginable inner beauty, a gestation of sorts, and a testament to the fragility and ephemeral nature of the creative impulse that propels art." Thanks to its supporters, the fund has enabled countless other individuals to develop artistic talents that might have otherwise been abandoned or hindered due to financial difficulties.

With over 40 works of art carefully



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THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS BLACK AND WHITE

Third Time is Not a Charm

By ROGER LU, IV
COPY ASSOCIATE

For someone so young, Christopher Paolini is a very accomplished author. At the age of 15, he graduated high school. The following year, he wrote his first novel, *Eragon*. It has been on the *New York Times* Bestseller list for 121 weeks (nonconsecutive). *Eragon* was adapted as movie in 2006, bringing Paolini into the limelight. Soon after, at the age of 18, he wrote the sequel to *Eragon*, entitled *Eldest*, which quickly became a *New York Times* Bestseller as well. Paolini has released his latest work, *Brisinger*, the third installment to the series.

For those who do not know, the *Inheritance Cycle* is a fictional series about a farmhand, named Eragon, who discovers a dragon egg. The egg hatches into a female blue dragon named Saphira who becomes telepathically linked to Eragon. Saphira imposes upon Eragon's life and he is forced to become a Dragon Rider. Throughout his journey, Eragon makes new friends while learning the art of magic and combat. Simultaneously, Eragon is forced to contend with another Dragon Rider, the insane King Galbatorix, who killed the original Riders and proclaim his power over the land. Sounds cliché? You do not know the half of it.

I have always found Christopher Paolini to be overrated. Most readers are amazed that he published a novel at the age of sixteen. However, nearly all of them fail to realize that his parents, who

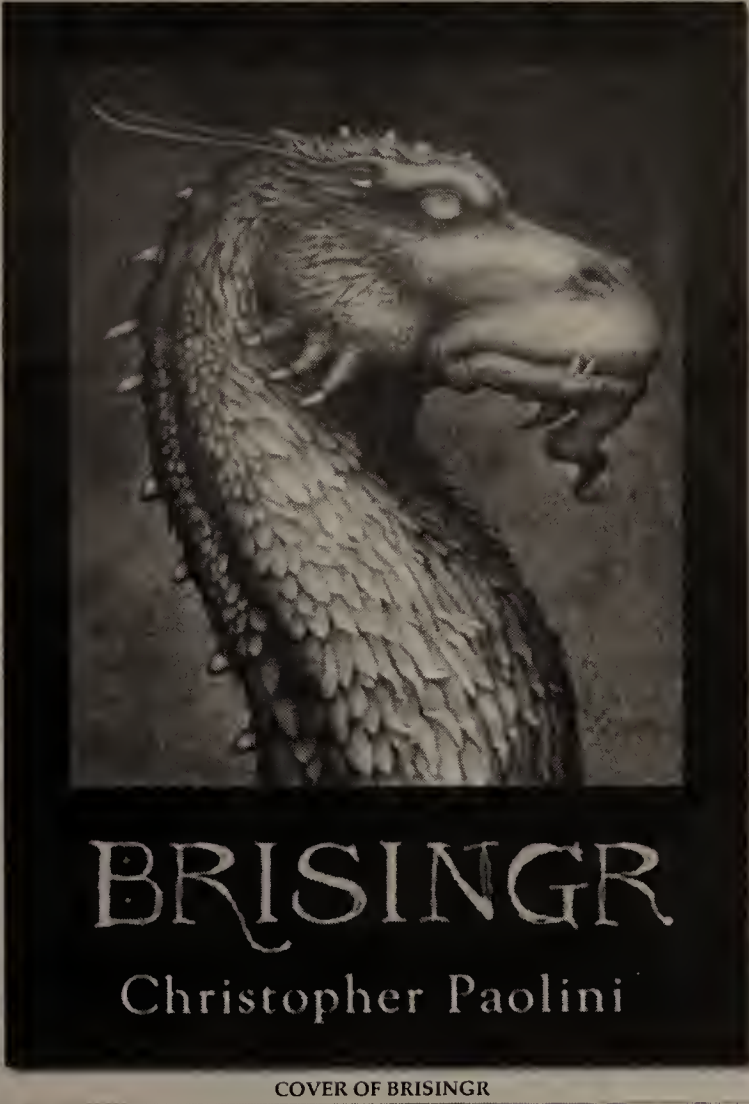
own a publishing house, might have had something to do with it. As for actually writing an entire novel at sixteen, I will admit that is no small feat, but it has to be said that Paolini is not a completely unique writer. His books about sorcery, elves, and dragons reek of ideas emulating J.R.R. Tolkien and J.K. Rowling. His plot, involving a simple farmboy's rise to hero status, also seems suspiciously parallel to that of Luke Skywalker from *Star Wars*.

So, keeping this in mind, I walked into Borders with very low expectations for *Brisinger*, but was pleasantly surprised by what I discovered—it was actually quite decent. It is not amazing, but in comparison to *Eldest* and *Eragon*, I would say that Paolini has come a long way. His characters finally have some depth to them instead of the usual paper-thin stock personalities. Eragon is no longer your average over-confident,

happy-go-lucky dunderhead of a hero. Instead, he has finally grown into a veteran of war, the chosen one to defeat the evil King Galbatorix. Eragon changes in many ways, a reflection of Paolini's development in his writing. No longer do choppy sentences and naively worded phrases litter his paragraphs, as was usually found in *Eragon* and *Eldest*.

Sadly, Chris still has a big road ahead of him in terms of progressing his plot. *Brisinger* is nearly full to the brim with useless little chapters that valiantly attempt to flesh out characters and make Eragon's world appear more vast and mysterious. *Brisinger* was originally supposed to be the conclusion of the *Inheritance Cycle* and I was shocked to find that most of the conflicts that were brought up in *Eldest* remained unresolved.

According to the acknowledgments in the back of *Brisinger*, Paolini stated that, "*Brisinger* ended up much larger than I anticipated—so much larger, in fact, that I had to expand the series from three books to four." Personally, *Brisinger* appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to make a quick buck. Paolini saves all the major plot twists for the last couple of chapters. All of these twists, while certainly significant, are so predictable that it is almost comical. Obviously, Paolini was expecting to shock readers with amazing revelations, but it is apparent that most readers saw past them. I suppose, however, that you could purchase *Brisinger* to find out what has changed so that you will be prepared for book IV of the *Inheritance Cycle*. Otherwise, do not bother.



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COVER OF BRISINGR

Horoscopes

ARIES (March 21 to April 12) Feel better. At least you have more foreign policy experience than Sarah Palin.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Watch your step. You might find a piece of gum on those already dirtied kicks.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Memorize that Mission Statement tomorrow. It will finally come in handy.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Think twice before picking up that dropped piece of candy. The five-second rule will fail you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug 22) If you find a penny on the floor today, do not pick it up. It is laced with E. coli.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Invest some money in toothpaste and Tic-Tacs. Trust me.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Calm down. They were just jokes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Change your wardrobe. You might actually be noticed.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) ...

December 21) Cheer up, Joe Jonas is now single and looking to mingle.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) No matter how many times you shake that 8-ball, the answer still "no."

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Take a different route to Physics class today, you might be in for a surprise.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Look on the bright side: the Dow might be falling, but so are those inches off your waist!

Ask the Argo

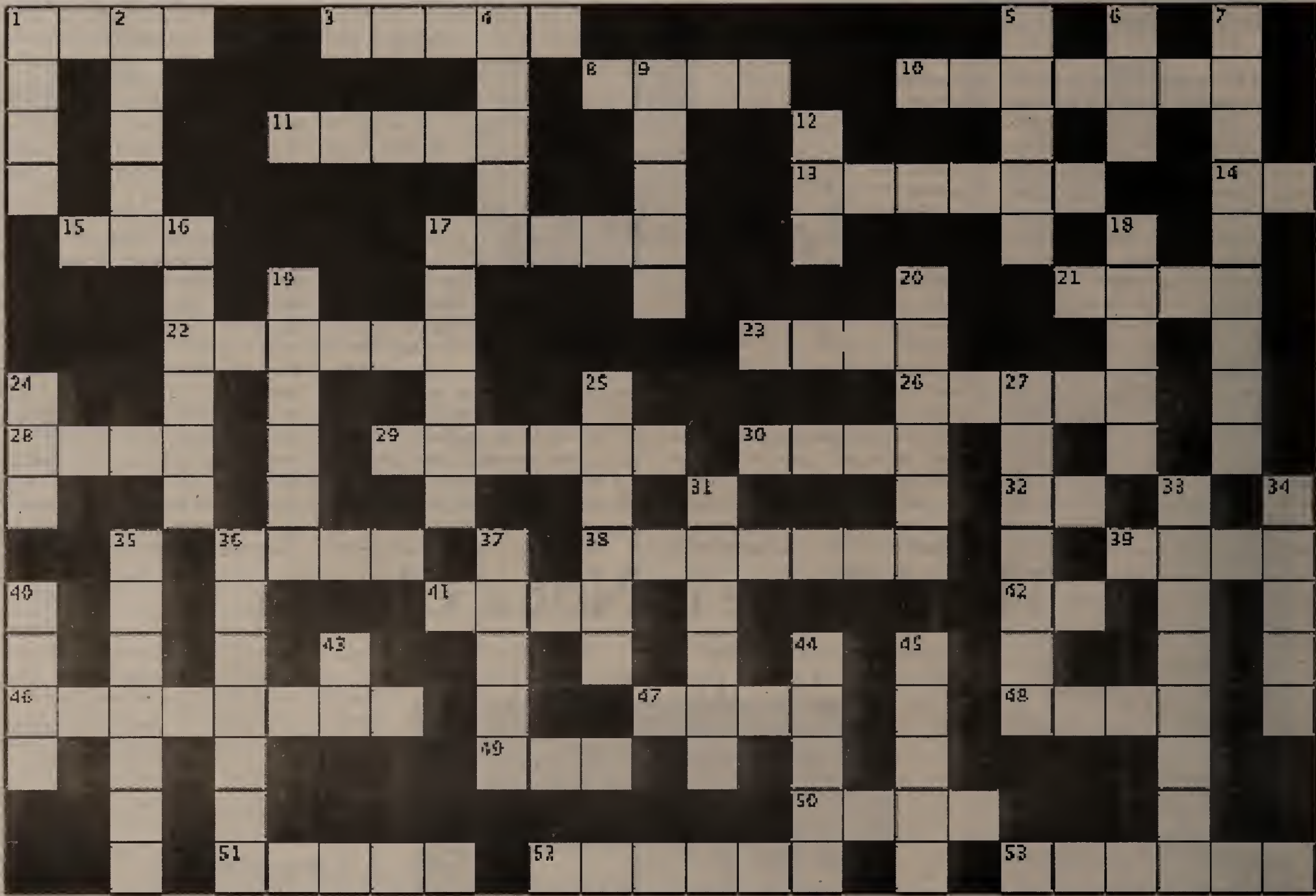
Have a question for Argo A&E?

Do you have a question that you are dying to ask us?

Send your questions into blsargo.ae@gmail.com and if your question is chosen, it will be published in the next issue of the Argo! When submitting questions, indicate whether you want to use your real name or a pen name.

THE FUN PAGE

The Official Argo Crossword



Across

- 1. The twine part of a candle
- 3. Not a color, but the absence of light
- 8. Found in pencils, and bullets and Chinese toys
- 10. The Windy City
- 11. Heath Ledger role
- 13. Czech Republic capital
- 14. To/towards (+acc.)
- 15. It's a love story, baby, just say _____
- 17. Sacred Heart's chief of medicine
- 21. The 4 of 143
- 22. Sought-after bad in Nick and Norah: Where's ____?
- 23. Official language of Pakistan
- 26. Number of stripes on Adidas shoes
- 28. How long it takes to save the world, in minutes
- 29. French word for 'outside'
- 30. To angrily rant, or to release air

- 32. Delaware; also, down from (+abl.)
- 36. "I'm Yours" singer
- 38. President who played the tenor saxophone
- 39. This means nothing in tennis
- 41. The female equivalent of 'sir'
- 42. A type of electromagnetic radiation, abbrv.
- 46. This girl has a Secret
- 47. O-Ren Ishii's "go-to girl"
- 48. Bristol's boyfriend; also a singular form of jeans
- 49. Strange and not even
- 50. Paulie Bleeker, Evan, Nick
- 51. Fruit; Mac
- 52. One of Team Rocket's Pokemon henchmen
- 53. Prime Minister of Canada; BLS Music Teacher

Down

- 1. Sarah Palin's debate habit towards the camera
- 2. BC quarterback; also a large bird
- 4. Female French chemist
- 5. Peanuts character with a security blanket
- 6. The Joy Luck Club author
- 7. Teenage Mutant Turtle
- 9. Popular water brand
- 12. Kwik-E-Mart of The Simpsons
- 16. Not Mozilla or Internet Explorer; also an overland expedition
- 17. Mortenson's son, named after a mountain pass
- 18. Popular cereal brand: ____ Bunches of Oats
- 19. German for 'citizen'; also, a fattening sandwich
- 20. Corduroy lost this in a shopping mall

- 24. Not on, and an insect repellant
- 25. On your crooked teeth or broken limbs
- 27. One of many energy drinks
- 31. Children's board game: Hungry Hungry ____
- 33. Replacing the Soup Man of the Galleria
- 34. Roman goddess of grain
- 35. This city is also the title of a Broadway play
- 36. Lost her Guy
- 37. String instrument
- 40. Volcanic molten rock
- 43. 22/7 and 3.14 are common estimates
- 44. A British flashlight
- 45. NBC Today anchor; Head of BLS Math Department

Easy Sudokus Diabolical

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A	7		4		8				5
B			3						
C		9			4				
D				4				5	
E		2		6	1	3		9	
F		6			5	9			
G					9			6	
H	8						3		
J	2				3		5		4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A		7					6	4	
B	3		4		6		9		
C			6						1
D	7			4				6	
E		1						8	
F		6		5		7			2
G	9						3		
H			3		8		1		4
J		5						9	

BUSINESS

Wall Street's Financial Woes

By ROBERT FITZPATRICK, IV
& PHILIP LEE, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER & COPY EDITOR

When you turn on the nightly news or open up a newspaper, the main headline will most likely be: "Economic Crisis Continues." Despite the national focus on the stock market and the mortgage crisis, many people are still unfamiliar with how the stock market functions and how it affects everyone.

In order to avoid accruing debt, companies sell stocks to consumers, which provide the companies with a quick source of income. Stock is a certificate that shows ownership of a small portion of a corporation. By buying stocks, consumers pay for a share of what the company owns. If the company prospers, its stock will increase in value and the consumer's own stock will increase in value as well. For example, the investors, or stockholders, might have purchased their stock at the price of \$10 per share. When the value of the share increases to \$50, the investors are able to make a profit. They now have two choices. They can either sell their stocks for a profit of \$40 per share or they can take a risk and hold on to their stocks in hopes of acquiring a larger profit later. In the United States, this buying, selling and trading of shares occurs in the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street.

The Wall Street's counterpart is "Main Street," which consists of average, everyday consumers. These people are the credit card users and the new homeowners, who are being blamed for the current economic crisis. Consumers are held partly accountable for the crisis because they have overused their credit cards, which resulted in bad credit ratings. A credit card is not free money, as most people believe; it is an I Owe You (IOU) with interest. Unfortunately, many people swipe their credit cards so many times that before they know it, they are

unable to clear their self-incurred debt. As time progresses, they have to pay even more due to the interest that is added onto their initial debt. This cycle of debt

credit. Another type of home loan is the adjustable rate mortgages or ARMs. The homeowners agree to pay a set amount (say, \$1000 a month) of mortgage pay-

close (or take possession of) those homes and the banks ultimately lost money because no one wanted to buy devalued property.



"NO MAN'S PURSE IS SAFE WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION."

can be compared to tardy detentions: if students miss a tardy detention, then they have to serve another one plus the original one. Eventually, the person's credit standing deteriorates to a point that they become a burden to other consumers.

Homeowners may be partially to blame for this economic collapse because many have defaulted on their mortgage loans. This causes the lender companies to lose revenue and the overall property value to decrease. When homeowners buy houses, they will most likely take out a home loan, which is an agreement to pay for the house over several years. One example is the subprime mortgage loan, which was given to prospective homeowners regardless of their ability to pay off the loan due to their terrible

ments with an adjustable interest rate. Adjustable interest rates, however, are constantly fluctuating. When the interest rate recently skyrocketed, many homeowners were unable to meet their mortgage payments.

The banks issue the adjustable interest rates that caused homeowners to default on their payments. The economic boom during Clinton's presidency led banks to grow increasingly optimistic. They began to lend money to everyone because they expected to make large profits from interest. In the past couple of years, however, the downturn in the economy made it harder for homeowners to pay off their loans and many simply walked away from their debt-ridden properties. This prompted banks to fore-

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two large mortgage firms, owned about \$5 trillion in home loan debt at the time of the crisis. Fannie and Freddie bought these loans from the banks, which bundled millions of loans into packages and sold it to the two mortgage firms. Because they lacked revenue from homeowners, the banks were unable to pay Fannie and Freddie. The two big mortgage-lending firms were unable to pay off their own debts and neared bankruptcy. Since the economy would be in drastic trouble if Fannie and Freddie were to fail, the Federal Reserve had to bail out both mortgages firms with taxpayer money. Anyone who owned shares of Fannie and Freddie, including foreign investment firms, saw their profits nearly wiped out.

The stock market immediately plummeted amidst investor fears of a stock market crash. Big investment firms, such as Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch and Washington Mutual, all owned millions of shares of Fannie and Freddie, and therefore failed as well. Thus, the stock value of these firms plunged and the firm's stockholders lost their money as well. This domino effect swept through the market since the loans, banks, and lending firms were more connected than everyone realized. This places immense pressure on the current and future administration's financial advisors to fix both the rapid economic collapse and the poor oversight and regulation. Regardless of who is elected president, change in our economic policies is necessary.

Twelve-Year-Old Invents New 3-D Solar Cell

By ANGELA LIU, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As Boston Latin School scholars, we tend to view ourselves as the best and brightest students in the nation. People have been telling us this for years. William Yuan is an exception. He's twelve years old and is an active member of the Meadow Park Middle School's Math Engineering Science Achievement Club and the First Lego League in Beaverton, Oregon. He participates in the Science Bowl and the MathCounts programs, and is a chess champion of Oregon. He consistently ranks in the top 1% in state standardized tests and even studies mechanical engineering, computer programming, and media design at advanced levels outside of school. In other words, William Yuan is a certified genius and his invention, a new 3D solar cell, has revolutionized solar energy and could possibly solve the problem of alternative energy sources that scientists have been trying to crack for years. So how does being a Boston Latin School scholar feel now?

Regular 2D solar cells reflect a significant amount of solar energy instead of absorbing it. They only allow light interaction once. The photovoltaic cells convert the sun's energy into electrical

energy. These cells, which allow absorption of light, must be thick enough to capture photons. The energy of the pho-

cell has a tower structure, resembling buildings in a city grid that the photons from sunlight by

sembling capture trapping them between the tower structures. Each tower structure is about 40 microns by 40 microns, and about 100 microns tall. These tower structures also allow the absorption of sunlight

from all different angles, so that the sun does not need to be directly over the cell. Since more photons are absorbed, the photovoltaic coatings can be thinner and the electrons can exit more quickly. Thus, light may be converted into electrical energy more efficiently. The 3D structure also enables smaller solar cells to absorb greater quantities of light, thereby storing more energy.

tons frees electrons, therefore converting solar energy into electric energy. However, the electrons leaving the photovoltaic coating are slow and therefore hinder this conversion.

Yuan isn't the first person to create a 3D solar cell. He simply designed a new and improved one. Engineers at the Georgia Tech Research Institute first developed the 3D solar cell. This solar



WILLIAM YUAN, TWELVE-YEAR-OLD PRODIGY

Yuan began developing his 3D solar cell invention when he was just ten years old. Encouraged by his science teacher and professors at Portland State University, Yuan completed extensive research of other scientists' work and began to develop his own ideas about how to use solar power. Inspired by Legos and nanotechnology, Yuan created an improved type of 3D solar cells. His project, "A Highly-Efficient Three-Dimensional Nanotube Solar Cell for Visible and Ultraviolet Light," has gained much attention. His solar cell can absorb up to 500 times more sunlight than the 2D solar cells, and up to 9 times more sunlight than the most current 3D solar cells, even when there are cloudy skies. Yuan did this by designing carbon nanotubes that are able to surpass the limits of electron movement, enabling absorption from visible to ultraviolet light. This invention, which has doubled the light to electricity conversion efficiency, could have a huge impact on both the society and the environment.

William's project has earned him the Davidson Fellow award and a \$25,000 scholarship. These types of awards are usually reserved for graduate students. He plans to talk to manufacturers in the near future and to build a working prototype of his solar cell. If his design works in a real life trial, manufacturing and marketing his product will follow. For the time being, let's just thank William Yuan for possibly saving the world from a huge energy crisis, and not being in your science class.

SPORTS

Boys' Soccer: EPIC

BY SANCHAY JAIN, II
STAFF WRITER

It has been quite a disappointing year for the BLS Boys' Soccer team. Of course, much of it can be attributed to two critical losses: Dual County League (DCL) MVP Rafael Santos, who graduated last year, and the coach himself, Nate Houghton, who left the team to return to school. Despite these losses, many talented players were returning to lead the team to success, and optimism was high.

However, the Wolfpack began the season on a sour note, riding a

13 game streak, without a win. Injuries began to pile up, and luck refused to lend a hand. Rumors started to spread claiming that players were faking injuries to miss games. Amidst all this, criticism began to mount over the decision making and coaching strategies of the new coach, Jean Hosler.

Some of his formation changes have resulted in miserable defeats. For example, in the season opening game against Arlington, Coach Hosler implemented a scheme consisting of only three defenders—the outcome was a 4-0 “shellacking”. The following game, he switched back to the regular four defenders in the back. The result was a 0-0 tie against Acton-Boxborough. “This game was a pretty big upset, and a huge motivator for our team,” according to John Fox (II).

Another questionable decision made by Coach Hosler was the placement of Derek Miller (II) on offense, while playing Nacho Farias (III) as a defender in hopes of sparking some kind of energy into the team. Says senior captain Rene Reyes (I) about the two players: “Derek is one of our best defenders along with John Fox, Pablo Chao (I), Kyle Flattery (III), and Nick Kopsiaftis (I), and Nacho is one of our best offensive players, if not the

best.” The outcome of this arrangement was a 4-0 crushing defeat at the hands of Weston.

Perhaps one of the lowest points of the season came during a match against Waltham. Our team held the lead and looked well on their way to their first victory of the season. However, in the last



TEAM BEFORE THEIR FIRST WIN OF THE SEASON VS. NEWTON SOUTH

minute of the game, an improbable goal by Waltham led to a tie instead of a win. But despite these setbacks, there have also been some positive notes. Both captains Rene Reyes and Mike Marra (I) have been providing incredible leadership on the field. With Reyes leading the team in goals scored and Marra making save upon save, they have helped to keep the team competitive during their games. Other key players have also contributed. Says Tomas Leyton-Nolan (III), “Ryan Connelly (III) hasn't played much this season due to injury, but was a major asset in the games he did play in. Mike Wojewodziec (IV) has started every game this season playing the full 80 minutes in most. Not to be left out are players like Erik Bullard (I) and Joe Callahan (I).”

And of course, there was the first win of the season against Newton South. This game stuck out because it was the first time where the whole team really stepped their game, due to the previous 2-0 loss to Newton South. “Cameron Labeck (III) scored the goal that gave us the victory,” said Fox. No matter how the remaining part of the season unravels, this season has definitely been a learning experience and a building block for the future of BLS

Girls' Soccer: Square 1

BY JIANYUAN WANG, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The coach for our Girls' Varsity Soccer team is none other than Ms. Andrea Encarnacao herself, and the team captains are Hanna Stuart-Shor (I), Sarah Fox (I), and Kay Smith (I). Everyone on the team works extremely hard; they try their best at every game and practice everyday. Our Girls' Varsity team may not have won every game, but the team is still very diligent. As team member Robyn Casper (I) puts it, “We never give up. Maybe we can do better on our scoring, but our record and scores shouldn't reflect on our efforts because we give our top performance against all our opponents.” Sarah Fox concurs: “Well, even though we haven't won that many games, we still improve every time we play. Our main goal isn't to hold the best record, but to do as well as we possibly can and to come together as a team.” The team is trying its best, defeating the Boston Latin Academy team a few times and coming close to winning against Weston, which shows the team deserves credit for their efforts.

Soccer is all about teamwork and how to use different strategies, which

at Boston University, and also went apple-picking to bond as a team. This may seem trivial to people who don't participate in sports, but for those who do, this is an important factor in match performances that the team demonstrates. Tonia Speicher (II) says, “I think we're having a tough year because it's a new team and a new coach, but I think we've improved a lot over the course of the season and we all get along very well. Hopefully, we'll keep up the good work in our last couple of games and win a few of them.”

One of the most important things to the Girls' Varsity Soccer team is to have the Boston Latin School community give more support. That's right, give them the support they need! For any sport, the teams need their fans to cheer them on during a game. This can improve their team performance and morale. Please encourage the Girls' Varsity Soccer team by coming to the games and cheering on the team to give the home field advantage. Emma Gilman (II), who plays the outside-mid position for the teams, says, “It was tough losing our seniors from last year, but we have done extremely well in stepping our game up this year, and we improve each time. So please come to



TEAM IN THE HUDDLE IN THEIR GAME AGAINST WALTHAM

is what the Girls' Varsity team practices daily. The team focuses on passing the ball, scoring, and basic soccer skills, but it also has team activities to help the girls become more unified. For example, the whole team went to a game

our games.” Hanna Stuart-Shor, one of the team's captains, says, “We can work on possession drills and practice more, but what we also need is more support from the school.” They need you, and you can help by going to their games,

Cross Country: High Expectations

BY DANA LAMB, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is back to the books as usual at Boston Latin School with the start of the 2008-2009 school year, but it is not all work and no play. Cross Country has begun a new season that allows people to have fun and to compete with other schools. It is a break from all the strenuous work of solving those fun algebraic problems and writing those interesting papers for English. The track team is run by Coach Michael Meagher, a veteran coach for track for well over 25 years.

Although track may seem like a tough sport that involves a lot of running, you can see that the members have a lot of fun too. They talk, laugh, and joke while working hard everyday, rain or shine, to prepare themselves for the new season. This is not just a team, it is a family that works together in order to accomplish something great. This team is united under one goal, which is to do their very best and to give BLS more recognition. Don Vu (I) said, “The team's goal this season is to

try and do our best. So far we've won two meets, and that's a lot better than we've been doing in the past. The seniors want to go out with a bang, and the underclassmen want to get a better reputation for the school.” With such determination, they may accomplish anything.

Last season went well for the team. Don Vu added, “The last Cross Country season ended well; many people got new personal records and three people qualified for states,” one of whom being Conrad Ennis (I). Without the previous se-

niors due to their graduation, the current seniors now have to set an example for the rest of the team. One of the co-captains of the girls' team, Claire Ruff (I), said, “The loss of last year's seniors definitely leaves an empty space, but I believe the

seniors have stepped up to the plate with our experience in Cross Country as well as indoor and outdoor track.” The seniors this year include Travis Connolly (I), Kerry Costello (I), Joe Gallant (I), Marcella Sifnugal (I), Don Vu (I), Marvell Lahens (I), Dan Lynch (I), Cyrus Liu (I),

and Conrad Ennis (I), many of whom have run for track before and with that experience, they have the potential to make this season a great one. Some of the potential upcoming runners include Elza Lambers (II), Mai Hunt (II), Sarah Minahan (II), Kent Li (II), Tiffany Fonseca (III), Kathleen Mello (III) Brian Mahoney (III), Leanna Ehrlich (II), and Nick D'Agostino (III).

There are two new schools that have entered the Dual County League, Arlington and Waltham, which has added some new competition in track this year. Claire Ruff said, “Our expectations this year are to improve our rankings in the DCL and beat the new competitors that have entered the DCL this year.” The Boston Latin School Cross Country team has a lot of confidence that has jump started the team into early success. The runners have such great determination because they enjoy what they do. This team is showing early signs of great potential that could manifest into quite a terrific season. The BLS Cross Country team will be a powerful opponent to be reckoned with.



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY RACING TO THE FINISH

SPORTS

Football: Record Doesn't Tell Story

By LAUREN ANDERSON, I
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Boston Latin School is not only renown for our outstanding record of academics: we are also notorious for our promising yet dismal football team. Thus far in the 2008 season, the boys in purple have been outscored by a combined 133 points. There's been rumors, however, that 2008 may be a turnaround season for the Wolfpack. While it's true that the 0-6 Wolfpack has started this year continuing the trends of last season, it is possible that under the leadership of senior captains Gerry Bilodeau (I), Pat Cronin (I), Sean Deery (I) and Conor Finnerty (I), the whole mentality of Wolfpack may be changing.

Now, a 0-6 start to the season is not a total loss for the Wolfpack. Technically we only need to "Bomb the Blue" to achieve a winning season, but the season is far from over. Nonetheless, the boys think that they have their toughest opponents coming up in the ensuing weeks. With upcoming games against Acton-Boxboro, Newton South, Westford Academy, Lincoln-Sudbury and, of course, Boston English, the overall feeling of the team is that the games will be tough but not impossible. Moreover, there are no disillusion

sions on this team. Captain Pat Cronin (I) said, "The last few opponents we face are the toughest on the schedule. We need to realize that we *do* have a lot of talent on our team and stop going into games with an underdog mentality."

The team is doing much more than



CONOR FINNERTY RUNNING THE BALL HARD TO THE LEFT

just mentally preparing themselves for the games. The offense has taken giant steps forward since last year. They have had more success in moving the ball down field and getting first downs. So far this year, they have scored an average of 12 points a game, which allows them to compete on a higher level than of last season. There has been a huge emphasis on tackles as well as the overall aggressiveness of the team. They are consciously working on playing smarter

and harder football. During practice, the entire team participates in drills that are geared toward achieving big hits.

This season's turnaround had been led by example. Captain Sean Deery is playing tough on the edge, putting enormous amounts of pressure on the opposing quarterbacks, while Mike Walsh (I) has been playing like a beast at fullback, taking on the role of the Wolfpack's leading scorer. As many of you may know, it takes defense to win games, and that is being handled by Captains Finnerty and Deery, who hold it down on defense.

The team wants to let the Boston Latin School community to know that despite their record, they are working hard. Pat Cronin stated, "I have never played with harder working guys. We go down to Clemente, down to the Dust Bowl, and we give it 100% everyday." Deery added, "I don't think people see or appreciate all the guys who don't start. They are right there with us, making us better."

When asked about what had changed most this season, Jared Coyne (I) said, "Practices have changed to focus more on enjoying playing the game and playing more aggressively." The coaches have instilled a new love for the game that is causing the team to feel like they will leave a lasting legacy on Boston Latin Football.

Golf: Team Built for Future

By EVAN PICARIELLO, I
STAFF WRITER

Golf has always been notorious for being a sport played by people who are past their prime. However, that is not the case at Boston Latin School. Over the years, the golf team at Boston Latin School has not been one of the most applauded teams in the building. While not proving to be an overpowering force in the past, the golf team has always been filled with pride and has always had a common goal of just having fun and giving one hundred ten percent at all times. This past year, more of the same came from this squad of dedicated individuals.

After starting the season off with an inspiring win over Newton South, the golf team finished with a record of just 1-15. The lack of wins this season may have resulted from many hardships and changes that the team faced this year. One change that the players had to cope with was a change in the rules that were imposed. Starting this year, the way that the scores were tallied changed

from a point system to a match play format. Another rough change this year was the stepping down of Coach Britto. Coach Britto had been dealing with personal issues that he had to tend to and he eventually had to step down as the head coach. But, this did not stop this group of experienced golfers from just having fun and giving it their best at all times. As put by Captain Mike McLaughlin (I), "The motto of our team throughout the year has been 'No slackin on your mackin'". McLaughlin says that there has been a loose and fun spirit throughout the team this year, and that is all that mattered to him and the other golfers on the team.

All of the players tried really hard to get the ball in the hole as often as possible, led by Mike Yandle's (I) affectionately named putter, 'PIPE.' Yandle said, "Whenever I felt like my stroke wasn't stroking so well, I just told myself to remember 'It's all in the hips'". The attitude and determination make it hard to frown upon this team, especially knowing how much work has been put in by all of the players of the years.

Girls Volleyball Serves It Up

By EDALINA WANG, V
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Look at who is making their way to the top of the pack. The Boston Latin School Girls' Volleyball team has had a terrific season this year. They try their best, and it shows on their record. Just more than half-way into the season, they have already won eleven games and lost only two. Although last year's team captain, Julianne Chan, has graduated, the team still has Kai Yuen as head coach with Suzi Lu (I) and Amelia George (I) as co-captains. With the three of them leading the team, they are unstoppable.

The Boston Latin School Girls' Volleyball team is in second place at the moment in the Dual County League, right behind their rivals, Lincoln Sudbury. In the past few years, Lincoln Sudbury has taken the DCL title from Latin numerous times, but the Wolfpack team is hoping

to get it back this year. Not far behind Lincoln Sudbury, BLS had the chance to tie them for first in their last game of the regular season. Sadly, the girls lost to Newton South, losing their chance at the DCL title. Still, the team has been working hard and has already earned their place in the playoffs, even though the regular season still has not ended.

The BLS Girls' Volleyball team and the Lincoln Sudbury team have been head-to-head rivals for quite a while. Last year, the final outcome showed that the two teams were close within the other with Lincoln Sudbury coming in third and Boston Latin School coming in fourth.

How did our outstanding team get to be so good? A normal day of practice starts off with a warm-up and a stretch to get them ready for the day's practice. It continues with practicing serving and spiking the ball to improve their

serves and hits, followed by controlled scrimmages and fun activities. Whether practice is hard or easy, every one of these players show that they are going to see it through.

Although the volleyball season did not start until the end of August, most of the players have been playing throughout the off-season to improve their game. Most of the starting line-up has been on the team for at least 2 years, showing that they have commitment and experience.

The girls' team is in good shape, and they practice with a great amount of determination as well as discipline. They put in their best effort and look where it has gotten them. Unfortunately, the DCL title has escaped their grasp, but with resilience they will succeed in the playoffs. Taking State Champs seems like a fantasy, but may come true with such an outstanding team! **GOOD LUCK!**

Spotlight
Desmond McHugh

By GREG MCQUAID, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I simply do NOT know where to start with Desmond McHugh. I have known Desmond personally from his Phat Farm jumpsuit days to his current suave and smooth self. Having been friends with Desmond for the last six years has led me to understand just how interesting and complex his personality is beneath his charming and sweet exterior persona. Nicknamed "McBox" for reasons that do not need to be revealed, Desmond McHugh has built quite a reputation for himself at Boston Latin School.

Born to Tom and Lalla (yes, that's her actual name) McHugh, Desmond currently resides in the multicultural Roslindale with his older brother. Often recognized for his eccentric and jubilant behavior, Desmond struts his stuff down the hallways greeting fellow classmates with a wink and a "whatsup." Despite being known for wearing his shoes on the wrong feet or leaving his house with no pants on, Desmond, to the absolute astonishment of his peers, has a near perfect Grade Point Average. As an active participant in both Varsity Golf and Wrestling, he is most renown for his determination and effort in athletics. I cannot count the number of times that Desmond has woken me up for a 5 a.m. run or a weight lifting session, when in the end, I can only decline out of sheer embarrassment to his unrivaled work ethic. Ironically, despite his chiseled physique, Desmond subsists on a steady diet of candy and Taco Bell, so much so that he is on a first name basis with the cashiers and has earned the ability to order "the regular."

With him as my partner in crime (I could not mean that more figuratively), I am sure that I am not alone in saying that I will miss his antics next year. It is difficult to find a friend who is always so down to earth, always so giving, and always so late. A true gentleman, it is not uncommon to see Desmond help an elderly woman with her groceries or lay down his coat over a puddle. In addition to his great academic ability and his loving nature, he is staple to the BLS social life. His quirky habits, short attention span, and perpetual love for the ladies, has gradually crafted his identity of "McBox." You can easily recognize him as the kid who wears the silly and frivolous women's blouses on Fridays, simply because his friends pay him to do so. Having known Desmond for six years, I can assert (and sleep easily) that there can absolutely not be and will not possibly be another Desmond McHugh. To understand the kid who is all that and a bag of skittles you must understand his life motto, "think outside The Box."

Spotlight Kay Smith



By ROBYN CASPER, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You've heard her in the hallways shouting lines from *Mean Girls* or singing to Coldplay. You've seen her reciting inside jokes with just about every student, teacher and janitor at Latin. You may have seen her blocking shots "ninja style" for the girl's soccer team or shooting hoops like her childhood inspiration Kobe Bryant. Okay, chances are you have never been to a girl's basketball game or had any idea where the soccer team practiced. Regardless, you have all heard of the legendary Kay Smith.

Leave it to Kay Smith to know all the lines to *Not Another Teen Movie* and to perform "Ironic," by Alanis Morissette, for declamation in 9th grade. But don't let that fool you. Kay Smith gets serious when it comes down to the things she cares about most in life—friends, family, and sports.

Kay Smith flaunts a whopping 996 friends on Facebook! If that is not a feat, I do not know what is. Despite knowing more people on Facebook than God himself, Kay praises quality over quantity and remains one of the most dependable and trusting people I know. And having been an unofficial adopted member of the Smith family, I can honestly say that Kay's family contains some of the funniest and most insane people this side of the Mississippi. Perhaps most notable, Kay's hero, as well as mine, is her older brother, Brian, who is currently serving in the United States Air Force in Afghanistan.

For as long as I have known her, Kay has been a phenomenal athlete. Being several inches taller than her teammates, Kay became a dominating force in St. Gregory's CYO sports team early on, and has since been known as "The Enforcer." As a captain of both the basketball and soccer teams at BLS, Kay demonstrates leadership qualities and the enthusiasm that keeps her teams going strong. When times are tough and heads are down, Kay reminds the team of her anthem, "Don't Stop Believin'." During games, Kay is aggressive, motivated and never fails to amaze her fans, no matter how meager the crowd may be. Throughout the years, Kay has played softball, thrown the javelin, and engaged in hardcore PowderPuff football. But despite all of her athletic experience, Kay's true passion is basketball.

Since emerging from the womb, Kay Smith was a born basketball player. She has played several positions, but earned a spot on the BLS Girls' Varsity team in the 10th grade as a post player. Since then, her shooting skills have improved dramatically and she now plays the wing. Kay has been in contact with several coaches and hopes to be recruited to play college basketball next year.

In addition to Kay's humorous disposition and ability to excel in sports, Kay is a prolific artist with the coolest handwriting ever. Although she has abandoned any possible careers in art, she continues to express her creative wisdom through pottery. She has been involved in Clay Club at BLS since the 10th grade and considers this craft to be one of her favorite hobbies.

Kay is an incredibly talented person whose hilarious stories I could tell for hours. But I will not bore you. Just do yourself a favor and get to know the greatness that is Kay Smith.

SPORTS Bruins Offseason Review

By MARSHALL CALDERA, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The eighth seed in last year's playoffs played a hard-fought series and drove the best team in the Eastern Conference to seven games and near elimination. In the off-season, the team got rid of an aging veteran, and a mistake-happy blue-liner. They brought in a potential 30-goal scorer and got back the face of the franchise from injury. Add this to an improving core of youth, as well as a potentially great tandem of goaltenders and you would think that it would be an improvement, right? But no, the national media has decided to look past this promising team, also known as your local Boston Bruins.

Dubbed by one network as the team "most likely to not reach the playoffs again" and pegged by many to drop off in performance, this team has once again been overlooked. But it will try to prove its critics wrong for the second consecutive season. With so many positive things to point out about this team, however, it is hard to believe the lack of hype.

Last year, the team showed great discipline under the new system, and with a full year under their belt, they should most certainly improve. They should be given more freedom, as head coach Claude Julien gave the defensemen the green light to help out with scoring

by pinching down more in the offensive zone. This may serve as the spark to set fire to this less-than-stellar offense from last year, which netted fewer goals (212) than it gave up (222).

In addition to attempt at improvement, the Bruins signed a contract with wing Michael Ryder, a former Canadian player who, by playing with assist man Marc Savard, should get back to his 30-goal talent that escaped him in Montreal. This also meant the departure of sniper Glenn Murray, whose old age became more evident than ever last year. Rookie Blake Wheeler was also brought in as this year's version of Milan Lucic. While standing at 6'3" and slightly less aggressive than Lucic, Phil Kessel's former line-mate at the University of Minnesota won management over and forced himself onto the varsity roster, in the process knocking out wing Peter Schaefer and defenseman Andrew Alberts. However, Wheeler has cooled off considerably since the season has started, and may be sent down to the team's American Hockey League affiliate, the Providence Bruins.

The biggest story this year was the return of Patrice Bergeron. The gifted center returned after being out all of last year with a significant head injury, and is looking to contribute to a solid center group, which also includes the young David Krejci. He will be passing

the puck to the aforementioned Kessel, who has started the year off with a bang. Scoring 6 goals in the first 6 games, Kessel finally pulled it together. Combining his lightning speed with soft hands, and now newly-developed grit, the former Gopher is currently in the top 5 for goals and shows no signs of slowing down. If he is finally breaking out, goalies around the league better beware.

This brings us to our own goaltender situation, which for right now is a platoon of All-Star Tim Thomas as well as the resurrection of Manny Fernandez. These two are like fire and ice, complete opposites in both style and technique. Thomas is known for his lack of positioning skills, but also for coming up with the big saves. Fernandez brings positioning to the table, but looked nervous in his first few games, letting a few soft goals in. Who will win this position battle? Only time will tell.

So far, the main theme of the season has been about these net-minders, as neither of them can hold on and get the Bruins some wins. Some disappointing hard-fought losses have come from lack of skill defending the shootout, but hopefully one of them will step up their game. There is a lot to look forward to, and hopefully, we will be watching our boys play deep into April once more, and making some professional critics wish they had not bet against us again.

Upstart Rays Put Down Sox

By ELI HOFFMAN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Well, it looks like there will not be any championship parade this year. Whether you are a diehard Sox fan, such as myself, or just looking forward to taking a day off from school, you will have to wait until next year.

The Red Sox's dream of a third title in five years was destroyed after losing to the exciting, young, hot, (whatever you want to call them) Tampa Bay Devil Rays in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series. Despite the comeback from seven runs down with seven outs to go in Game 5, winning 4-2 in Game 6, and later forcing a Game 7, the Sox were unable to put the finishing touches on yet another comeback.

This *Soxtober* began like any other in recent Red Sox history, with a series win over the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, a team that the Red Sox defeated with nine straight postseason games heading into the series, a record which had dated all the way back to 1986. Though the Red Sox were unable to sweep the Angels this time, they managed to beat them in four games in a best-of-five series, behind two stellar performances from their new ace, Jon Lester, and plenty of timely hitting.

Facing a possible Game 5 in Los Angeles, the Red Sox needed ten innings

to dispose of the pesky Angels, with the game-winning hit coming off the bat of rookie shortstop Jed Lowrie. Scoring the winning run was none other than trading deadline acquisition and Manny's replacement, Jason Bay. While some of the Red Sox's best hitters, among them Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz, struggled mightily, Jason Bay was able to carry the Red Sox with his bat.

But the ALCS was not as easy for the Sox.

Daisuke Matsuzaka got the Red Sox off to a great start: taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning, getting in and out of jams the entire game, and leading the Red Sox to a 2-0 win and having several Red Sox fans thinking sweep. Not quite, because over the next three games the Rays completely overpowered the Red Sox with their pitching and relentless offense.

With their backs up against the walls once again, the Red Sox were forced to make a decision: win or go home. After going down 7-0 in the seventh in Game 5, not many people thought victory was even possible. Some fans at Fenway actually went home, while those at home decided to turn off their TVs. But six outs, two homeruns, eight runs and one J.D. Drew walk-off hit

later, the Red Sox had won in what was the second greatest postseason comeback in Major League Baseball history. The momentum went completely to the Red Sox and another ALCS comeback seemed inevitable. An embarrassing Game 5 loss



COCO AND D-PED WATCH FROM DUGOUT

and another defeat in Game 6 for the Rays was all the evidence Red Sox fans needed.

How could these young, inexperienced, Rays possibly overcome two straight defeats, when they almost won the series, knowing that the opposing team had come back

from a 3-1 series deficit just last year, and a 3-0 deficit four years ago? Well, whether you believed it or not, the Red Sox were unable to pull off the win in the decisive Game 7, losing 3-1, behind a dominant outing from Rays starter, Matt Garza, who was named the series MVP.

As bitter as I am about this defeat, I have to tip my hat to the Rays. All season long, they proved their critics wrong and are now in the World Series. The Red Sox displayed great heart in this series but just came up short. All I have to say to Major League Baseball is, good luck trying to get people to watch a Phillies vs. Rays World Series. I know I will not.

NBA Preseason Power Rankings

By DEVIN KIRBY, III
AND MIKE TOMASINI, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

With the NBA season starting up again, it's time to get a look at the teams to watch and those to ignore this year. Here's a look at our NBA Preseason Power Rankings. Here are the first 7.

1. *Boston Celtics*. The Celts are still hungry and led by the always-dominant Big Three and some promising draft picks on the bench. The Celtics are the favorites to repeat as NBA Champs.

2. *Los Angeles Lakers*. The Lakers are

expected to be as strong as last year, and rising star Andrew Bynum might be the key to a Lakers championship this time around.

3. *New Orleans Hornets*. The addition of James Posey is expected to exhilarate the Hornets, who are led by star point guard Chris Paul, to an even better season than last year's Cinderella team.

4. *Detroit Pistons*. The fast-running Detroit Pistons have little in the way of exciting developments, expect the usual core group of Billups, Hamilton, Prince, and Wallace to continue their dominance. However, age could be a problem.

5. *San Antonio Spurs*. With Manu Ginobili out of the picture for a while, the Spurs offense will be severely lacking until his return. Still a very big Western threat regardless.

6. *Cleveland Cavaliers*. Although he is the heart and soul of the Cavs, expect LeBron to look at other options if he is not wearing a ring this year.

7. *Utah Jazz*. Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer looked like they had something going in the Olympics, whether that carries over to the Jazz's season is another question.

More to come next issue.

SPORTS

Who is more at fault for the trading of Manny Ramirez, Manny or Scott Boras?

Manny



BY RICARDO A. SÁNCHEZ, II
STAFF WRITER

Who is more at fault for the trading of Manny Ramirez, Manny or Scott Boras? There has never been a more obvious answer to a question. The trading of Manny Ramirez happened very much because one man, Ramirez himself, simply did not want to play in Boston any longer. When Manny Ramirez was traded from the Boston Red Sox to the Los Angeles Dodgers, it was mainly because of his choice and his actions. Many Red Sox fans claimed that Scott Boras, Manny's agent, was at fault for the trade, or that some other factors contributed to the trade, but the fact of the matter was that Manny did not want to be here. He made this clear each and every year when he was in Boston, and during his final year, he did everything imaginable to get out.

Ever since he signed the eight-year, \$160 million contract to play in Boston in 2000, Manny Ramirez had made it apparent that he did not like playing in Boston. It began in his first season, when he claimed that he felt "uncomfortable" playing in Boston. To alleviate his insecurities, the Red Sox did everything they could to appease Ramirez and to ease his transition. However, in 2003, Ramirez told an ESPN reporter that he wanted to play for the Red Sox's archrival, the New York Yankees. That same year, during the ALCS, he was seen having dinner with Yankee infielder and close friend Enrique Wilson. This occurred on a night when he was supposedly too sick to play. In 2006, Ramirez threatened to boycott spring training if he was not traded. He eventually reported to spring training. It was almost childish, the way he would demand a trade, and then drop the demand once it became unlikely. This all happened before the 2008 season. By that point, neither side really wanted to maintain the relationship. Manny decided to force the Red Sox to play their hand.

As in the previous seven years, in 2008, Manny Ramirez remained a member of the Red Sox. It was the last year of his eight-year contract with the Red Sox. The team also held two club options for the 2009 and 2010 seasons, each worth \$20 million. Red Sox Nation was again unsure what would happen with Manny, and fans were anxious to see whether or not they would keep him at the end of the season. If everything had gone smoothly and Manny kept producing, the Red Sox would have kept Manny, and hopefully would have won another World Series in the process. However, Manny had different plans. This was his last chance to show the Red Sox how much he wanted out, and he seemed desperate.

The first public incident came during a game against the Tampa Bay Rays. NESN cameras caught Manny slapping teammate Kevin Youkilis in the face, resulting in an altercation between the two. Another incident occurred before a game against the Houston Astros. Manny had asked team secretary Jack McCormick to provide him with sixteen game tickets so that Manny's family could come watch the game. When McCormick told him that he would not be able to get him the tickets, Ramirez grabbed the 64-year-old man and threw him to the ground. Later, Manny sat out an important series against the Yankees with what he told the Red Sox was soreness in his knees. When the MRIs on his knees came back clean, Red Sox lost all patience. This incident was considered by many to be the "last straw" for the Sox.

Aside from all of the clubhouse incidents, Manny also got into a war of words with the Red Sox. During the All-Star Break, Ramirez told the media that the Red Sox were not being upfront about contract negotiations, insulting the owners personally. This created tensions with Red Sox ownership as they began retaliating through the media. When it became apparent that the Red Sox were looking to trade him, Ramirez told an ESPN reporter "the Red Sox don't deserve me. Mental peace has no price, and I don't have peace here." The Red Sox would go on to trade Ramirez to the Los Angeles Dodgers, thus ending the conflict.

As I look back on everything that Manny Ramirez did for the Red Sox, I cannot help but smile. Ramirez is undoubtedly one of the greatest hitters of all time, and he will surely be a first-ballot Hall of Famer. Despite leading the Red Sox to two World Series championships during his time here, and earning \$20 million per year, Manny Ramirez was unhappy. He demanded a trade every single year that he was in Boston. Many Red Sox fans, including myself, loved Manny and defended him every year. We loved him, and that is just the nature of a Red Sox fan. However, as difficult as it is to admit, Manny did not love us back. He acted immaturely in every way: whining, kicking and screaming until he got his way. Granted, Scott Boras' advice might have played a minor role in the Red Sox's decision to trade Manny, but Ramirez himself is the one who ultimately is at fault here.

Boras



BY VIMIN TO, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When Manny Ramirez was traded to the LA Dodgers this summer, everyone was quick to point the finger at him for bringing it upon himself. Manny crossed the line! He does not respect the game! People were quick to accept Manny's departure without knowing what had happened behind closed doors. There were only two villains, Manny and his agent Scott Boras. Yet we only heard about one of them. If we had known about Boras' partaking in the Manny trade, we would not be so quick to disown our first ballot Hall of Famer.

For those who are unfamiliar with the work of Scott Boras, let this be an overview. All around the baseball world, Boras is notorious for being a tough negotiator, to say the least. He has secured many lucrative contracts for his clients, including Johan Santana's 6 year, \$137.5 million deal, and Alex Rodriguez's ground breaking 10 year, \$252 million deal. Throughout his career as an agent, Boras has proved to be a very conniving and greedy man; often holding teams hostage, demanding more money for his client. His excessive greed knows no bounds, as it was once rumored that he demanded \$35 million to save a drowning child.

When Manny hired Boras as his agent last year, one could anticipate that things were going to take a turn for the worse. One must understand that it was Boras who orchestrated the trade from start to finish. He was the one who was profiting the most from it. In Manny's contract, Boston held the \$20 million options for the 2009 and 2010 seasons. If Manny was producing and was on good behavior, Boston might have actually kept him for another season or two. But here comes the problem for Boras. If the Red Sox were to hold onto Manny for the 2009 and 2010 seasons, he would not have earned any commission on the option years, because those fees belonged to Manny's previous agent. The only way Boras was going to get paid was if he negotiated Manny's next deal.

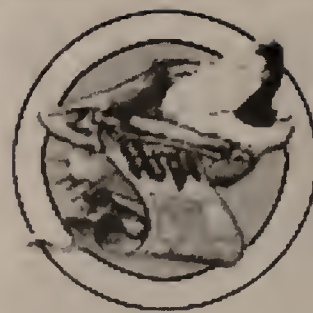
This forced Boras to put his plan into action. He was able to convince Manny that he could get him a four-year, \$100 million deal in free agency. Manny was all for it, as he wanted a new contract and felt that if Boston had kept him for the next two seasons, he would be too old for a possible maxed out contract. Now, all Manny had to do was cause some controversy and paint himself as the bad guy. That should not be hard.

With Boras' manipulative mind influencing him all the way, Manny was set to do his part. As the season progressed, so did the severity of Manny's actions. It started out with a small scuffle between him and Kevin Youkilis. Tension in the clubhouse became apparent. Next, it was his altercation with the Sox traveling secretary, 64-year-old Jack McCormick. He threw the old man onto the floor and reportedly said, "Just do your [expletive] job." But even this could not convince Boston to ship him off.

The last straw came not in the clubhouse, but on the baseball field. Manny said that he could not play due to a "sore knee," thus excluding him from numerous games, including a pivotal series at the time with the Yankees. Even when Manny started to play again, he would show discontent with his current contract by jogging out ground balls.

Manny was eaten alive by the media. Everything he did was covered by the radio, newspaper, and TV. One couldn't turn on NESN without hearing more about Manny's latest shenanigans. With enormous pressure coming not only from the clubhouse, but also the public's eyes, the Red Sox had no choice but to trade Manny.

Boras probably could not contain his joy. He had done it! He had dropped Manny's two-year options for the 2009 and 2010 season. With this out of the way, he was free to negotiate any deal he wanted to during the offseason. And because Manny had played in the National League, the perennial JV league of the MLB, he was able to accumulate incredible numbers, which meant more money for Boras. He can almost taste that hefty commission he is going to receive with Manny's new deal this offseason. Driven by his insatiable greed, Boras is the real winner and cause of the whole Manny trade.



Boston Latin School Sports

BLS Varsity Sports

Girls' Soccer
Boys' Soccer
Girls Swimming
Boys' Golf

Cross Country
Boys' Football
Girls' Volleyball

Life Without Brady

BY RENÉ REYES, I
SPORTS EDITOR

The Patriots lost quarterback Tom Brady, the NFL's reigning MVP, to a season-ending knee injury on their 16th offensive play of the season. The two-time Super Bowl MVP went down clutching his left knee midway through the first quarter against Kansas City when he was hit by Chiefs safety Bernard Pollard. He walked off the field limping and did not return. Although longtime backup, Matt Cassell, led the Patriots to a 17-10 victory, Brady's injury nonetheless overshadowed the win. The next day, in a one-paragraph statement, it was announced that Brady would be placed on injured reserve and would miss the whole season.

Down went Pats fans' hopes of another return trip to the Super Bowl. Snapped the next week would be Brady's 128 consecutive games started streak, the third-longest in NFL history.

Not only has the Patriots season been

full of ups and downs, but it has also been a tale of two teams. One week, they looked like a formidable football team that could beat anyone (ex: Jets, 49ers, and Broncos), and then the next week it looked like they were wearing the wrong uniforms. Consider the Patriots-Dolphins game. For a good portion of the game, I actually wondered if the two teams had switched uniforms, with the Pats wearing the white and orange, and the Dolphins wearing the red, white, and blue. That was the only way to explain the 38-13 thrashing that the Patriots received, right?

Ever since that fateful day at Gillette Stadium on September 7, 2008, watching a Patriots game has just not been the same.

"Boring." "Frustrating." "Disappointing." "Embarrassing." "Wow, I think I could play the quarterback position better than Matt Cassell!" Those are just some of the words and phrases that come to mind when I start thinking of the Pats season so far. I do not know about the rest of you Pats fans, but it is a complete struggle to get through a Patriots game nowadays. Matt Cassell takes

forever to throw the ball, and many NFL analysts believe that the defense is starting to show its age. The performance of the Pats through five games also brings up one of the most important questions you will ever come across this year: "Can Belichick win without Brady?" Let us take a look at these stats:

With Brady as his starting quarterback, Belichick is 87-24 during the regular season, 14-3 in the playoffs, and 3-1 in Super Bowls.

Without Brady, Belichick's career regular season record is a meager 41-57 and 1-1 in postseason play. Time will tell just how good of a coach Bill Belichick really is.

Not only does Belichick have to prove to everyone that he can win without Brady, but more importantly, that the New England Patriots can win without their leader. Football is one of many sports in which success rests not on one individual but on the entire



BRADY'S ONE-GAME SEASON

team. From the coaching staff to the trainers to the players, the team that works together for the same goal will triumph the most, and that is what the New England Patriots have been all about during their Super Bowl runs. The Patriots may not win 12 or 13 games this season, but the team still has the ability to

win 10+ games and the AFC East. This can only happen if the defense plays well, the running game gets going and if Cassell does just enough to keep his team in games.

The season is still young, and there is plenty of football left to be played.

I cannot really remember a time where the Pats did not have Number 12 under center. When Brady got hurt, I honestly thought that there was no way the Pats could get through the season without him. But the Pats players mirror their mentality through this famous saying, "People change and things go wrong, but just remember life goes on" — even without Brady as the starting quarterback of the New England Patriots.

College Football: Full of Upsets & Surprises

BY COLIN MURPHY, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Top 25: The first eight weeks of the young college football season has provided edge off your seat action so far. There have been constant Top 10 battles between the college football kings. Possibly the most anticipated game of the decade was #1 seed USC versus #5 seed Ohio State. The Trojans defended their #1 seed at the time, and destroyed OSU, 35-3, on national television. However, they were upset a couple of weeks later by a mediocre Oregon State team. Another great Top 5 clash happened in the prestigious Red River rivalry between #5 seed Texas and #1 seed Oklahoma. Texas came out on top 45-35 and earned the #1 seed the next week. The game showed that these two teams are the elite of col-

lege football. Preseason #1, Georgia, has fallen a bit off the national championship map after being beaten badly 41-30 (not as close as score indicates) by current #2 seed Alabama. The Bulldogs will have to do some serious work and get a couple of lucky breaks if they plan on playing for the season.

Mid Majors: The biggest threat to crash the Bowl Championship Series, Brigham Young University Cougars, was humiliated by underdogs Texas Christian 32-7. Riding the nation's longest winning streak of 16 straight games, the Cougars played an awful game in front of a national audience and has fallen out of BCS contention. Boise State and Utah are still two Top 15 non-BCS schools that could be BCS party crashers. Boise State already has a BCS bowl game win under their belt from a couple of years ago after

they defeated Oklahoma in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. Both teams have the talent to run the table and make a statement for a BCS spot.

Boston College: Our hometown BC Eagles are not doing too shabby, either. BC is coming off a big win against #17 seed Virginia Tech University after beating them at home 28-23. 5th year senior quarterback, Chris Crane, who has substituted current Atlanta Falcons QB Matt Ryan throughout his career, has finally gotten the chance to showcase his skills on the college level. After a very rocky first couple of games, he displayed his full potential against North Carolina State and their coach Tom O'Brien. During the game, Crane completed 34 of 51 passes and threw for over 400 yards and 3 touchdowns. Against Virginia Tech, however, he did not match

that performance, but he ended up having a decent game finishing with 218 yards on 16 of 32 passing. The duo of freshman running backs Montel Harris and Josh Haden have proved that they will make some serious noise for years to come. Montel Harris was the last scholarship filled in the '08 recruiting class and has proved to be a steal for the Eagles. The defense is one of the best in the nation and have already posted two shutouts against Rhode Island and Kent State. Led by junior linebacker Mark Herzlich, the defense has kept BC in their games when Chris Crane and the offense were struggling. If BC does not fall apart, you can expect another appearance in the ACC championship game. BC is currently ranked #23 in the AP poll and suffered their only loss to Georgia Tech this season.

Recap of Olympics

BY AADHAR MAHAJAN, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you have recently found yourself wondering if anything important happened between August 8 and August 24, you have found the right article. During these two weeks, the sports world turned its attention to Beijing, China. The opening ceremony may have been the best that the Olympics have ever seen. From thousands of drummers drumming in sequence to a national hero levitating to light the torch a hundred feet above the ground, the opening ceremony was a sign that the world was going to witness something special.

During the first week of the Olympics, the world was enthralled by the events at the Water Cube. This was because the perfect physical specimen that is Michael Phelps swam there. Seemingly part-human and part-dolphin, Phelps won eight gold medals, all of them in record-breaking times, taking the record of most gold medals won in a single Olympics from Mark Spitz. Phelps would not have

been able to accomplish this astounding feat without the help of Jason Lezak, who in the last leg of the 4 x 100 relay chased down French swimmer Alain Bernard. This was after the French had said that they would "smash" the Americans. After this, Phelps barely won the 200 meter butterfly by just seven-tenths of a second over a Hungarian swimmer in a photo finish.

The second week of the Olympics was dominated by Usain Bolt, who ruled the Bird's Nest. Usain Bolt was virtually unknown to anyone except hardcore track and field fans. Hailing from the Jamaican city of Trelawny, Bolt lived up to his name and proved that he is the fastest man in the world. In the 100 meter final, he broke the previous world record by two-tenths of a second even though he spent the last 20 meters celebrating and telling the rest

of the racers they had no chance. The 200 meter final was a payback for his gloating, but Bolt ran through the end and broke the record for the fastest 200 meter sprint. To top it all off, Bolt ran a leg in the 4 x 100

gold-winning relay. At the end of the Olympics, Bolt had won three gold medals and had become a household name.

After nearly exits in previous Olympics and

world tournaments at the hands of countries like Greece, Spain and Argentina, the U.S.A. Men's Basketball Team arrived in Beijing with a mission. Nicknamed the "Redeem Team", anything short of a gold medal was going to be considered a disappointment. With a stacked line-up that included superstars like Kobe Bryant,

Dwayne Wade, LeBron James, and Dwight Howard, the U.S. could not afford to lose to teams that were composed of European fringe superstars (Manu Ginobili and Pau Gasol) and virtual nobodies (rest of team Argentina and Spain).

The U.S. did not disappoint, breezing through pool play by beating China, Angola, Greece, Spain and Germany by an average of 32 points. In the quarterfinals the U.S. beat Australia soundly, led by Kobe Bryant's 25 points. The "Redeem Team" defeated Argentina by 20 points in the semifinal match-up. Argentina's star, Manu Ginobili had to leave the game with a twisted ankle in the first half and without him, his team had no chance. In the gold medal game, Team U.S.A. faced the Spanish team led by Pau Gasol. U.S.A. dominated Spain in qualifications by upping them 37 points. However, this game was more challenging for the "Redeem Team". U.S.A.'s largest lead was 14 points, but they had to hold off a late surge by Spain that cut the lead to 2 points with nine minutes remaining. In the end Team U.S.A. won by a score of 118 to 107.



RECORD-BREAKING 8 GOLD MEDALS FOR PHELPS